

AFTER WARREN REPORT

Dallas Officials Declare Shadow of Shame Gone

By BEN STEVENS
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A wrongly cast shadow of shame and guilt has been lifted from Dallas by the Warren Commission's report, the city's leadership said Monday.

"Dallas holds its head high as it should, based on this report," said John Stemmons, president of the Dallas Citizens Council.

Mayor J. Erik Jonsson said the report "justly destroys once and for all the fiction that Dallas fostered an unfriendly climate, causing the assassination."

"The report should lay to rest a great many of the emotional rumors and national and international gossip that followed the assassination," said Robert Cullum, president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and chairman of arrangements for the President's ill-fated visit to Dallas.

Mr. Stemmons said the commission's report vindicates the community.

"I am glad that it is pointed out specifically and emphatically that Dallas opened its heart to

President and Mrs. Kennedy — and the report emphasized this point," Mr. Stemmons said.

The Rev. Luther Holcomb, executive secretary of the Greater Dallas Council of Churches, said the report "clears the atmosphere of many questions."

"I commend the objectivity of the report and its thoroughness," he said. "It gives one a certain pride in country to feel that seven men would work as these men have worked."

Mr. Stemmons said he had not read the entire report but that in summary it "constituted a vin-

dications of the malicious and impulsive charges made against Dallas."

"Things were done that should not have been done," he said. "We all know that. But the way our people stood up to the tragedy shall ever make me proud of our city."

Mayor Jonsson said the report was so much in detail that it would take a long time to study it. But he said his first reaction is relief that the report is at last available to the public.

In addition to helping put the

proper focus on Dallas, the mayor said he hoped the report would point out the need for "most vigilant protection" for the nation's chief executives.

SEES FAIR ACCOUNT

"And when the final history of the event is written many years from now, I hope the report will stand up as a fair and honest account of the greatest tragedy of all time," he said.

Mr. Cullum said the report was "obviously a thorough, painstaking effort to give the world the true story in detail."

The report severely took the police department to task for its handling of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The city's leadership quickly came to the defense of the department.

The mayor pointed out the report had also "high praise for the police department for the superb job it did in arresting Oswald within two hours after he shot the President, the governor and Officer J. D. Tippit.

"They were very much on the ball," said the mayor. "They got their man."

Mayor Jonsson said police department only drew criticism for its "sincere desire to accommodate the press."

Mr. Cullum stressed that any "judgment of the department should and must be weighed with the tremendous job they did in arresting Oswald and the job they do every day as a local police department."