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Oswald Termed Sole Kennedy Slayer

Fought Authority, Warren Unit Says

By **ROBERT E. BASKIN**
Chief of The News' Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Lee Harvey Oswald, a lonely Marxist misfit who bitterly resented all authority and wanted to find a place in history, assassinated President Kennedy without the aid or encouragement of anyone, the Warren Commission said Sunday in its long-awaited report.

In a verdict for history and for the world on the great national tragedy of last Nov. 22, the 7-member commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren gave its detailed analysis following its 10-month investigation of the assassination.

It was a report that gave intimate new glimpses of that fateful day, including the moment when President Kennedy cried, "My God, I am hit," and the traumatic events in Dallas during the next three days.

But essentially it was a methodical, judicious study that probed deeply into all the circumstances of the death of a president.

Its language was specific. Its findings were positively stated. And the report clearly was intended to end, once and for all, the seemingly ever-growing crop of rumors and speculation over the days that shook the nation and the world.

The commission was sharply critical of the operations of the three major law-enforcement agencies involved in the case—the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dallas Police Department. And it deplored the conduct of the news media during the time that Oswald was held by the Dallas police.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

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

1
"The Dallas
Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

62 10/13/64
OCT 13 1964

Date: 9-28-64
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Jack B. Krueger
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Dallas
 Being Investigated

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A wholesale overhauling of the Secret Service was recommended. All speculations of conspiracy in the assassination—whether from the political right or left—were rejected by the commission. The report, however, said the commission "could not make any definitive determination of Oswald's motives," although clues did lie in his background and personality.

The commission, in a 10,000-word summary, announced 12 conclusions resulting from the testimony of 552 witnesses, the lengthy closed-door hearings it conducted, and laboratory and other scientific evidence. It also made 12 major recommendations, dealing principally with the Secret Service.

Shots Fired From Depository

Specifically, the commission concluded:

1. The shots that killed President Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally were fired from the sixth floor window at the southeast corner of the Dallas School Book Depository.

2. "The weight of the evidence indicates that there were three shots fired."

3. "There is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Gov. Connally's wounds." A later shot hit the back of the President's head. It was noted that Connally's testimony and some other factors had caused a difference of opinion on which shot had hit Connally.

4. Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots which killed the President and wounded Connally.

5. Oswald killed Dallas Patrolman J. D. Tippit about 45 minutes after the assassination.

6. Within 80 minutes of the assassination and 35 minutes of Tippit's slaying Oswald resisted arrest at the Texas Theater in Oak Cliff by attempting to shoot another policeman.

7. The Dallas police did not subject Oswald to physical coercion and his legal rights were not violated, but Oswald was subjected to harassment by members of the news media who were allowed "uninhibited access" to the police department. Statements made to the press during this period by law enforcement officials "would have presented serious obstacles" to a fair trial for Oswald.

8. Jack Ruby killed Oswald during the attempted transfer of the prisoner on the morning of Nov. 24 in the basement of the police department, but there is no evidence to support rumors that Ruby may have been assisted in the killing by any members of the Dallas police. The decision of the police to transfer Oswald to the county jail in full public view was "unsound" and arrangements were "inadequate."

9. No evidence has been found that either Oswald or Ruby "was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy."

10. No evidence has been found of any conspiracy, subversion or disloyalty to the United States by any federal, state or local officials.

11. Oswald acted alone and "to determine the motives for the assassination . . . one must look to the assassin himself." Factors to be considered include his resentment of authority, his inability to enter into meaningful relationships with people, "his urge to try to find a place in history," his capacity for violence as shown by his attempt to kill Gen. Edwin Walker and his "avowed commitment to

Marxism and Communism." But the commission itself makes no definitive determination.

12. The Secret Service's "criteria and procedures" for protection of the President "were not adequate prior to the assassination." There was "insufficient liaison and co-ordination of information between the Secret Service and other federal agencies concerned with presidential protection. The FBI "took an unduly restrictive view of its role in preventive intelligence work . . ."

In its recommendations, the commission stressed the need to reorganize the Secret Service, give it more personnel and define its procedures more exactly on protecting the President.

It proposed:

1. That a committee of Cabinet members be assigned responsibility for reviewing and overseeing the protective activities of the Secret Service and other federal agencies.

2. That a study be made on placing the service under some other department or agency of the government. The service is now under the Treasury Department.

3. That in the meantime the Secretary of the Treasury appoint a special assistant with the responsibility of supervising the Secret Service.

4. That the Secret Service "completely overhaul" its facilities devoted to the advance detection of potential threats against the president.

5. That the service improve protective measures on presidential motorcades.

6. That the service continue its recent efforts to "improve and formalize its relationships with local police departments in areas to be visited by the president.

7. That more personnel be given the Secret Service after its new criteria and procedures are established.

8. That other federal agencies, particularly the FBI, assist the Secret Service upon request and that a closer association and liaison between the Secret Service and all federal agencies be developed.

In its four other recommendations, the commission urged that the president's physician always occupy a position near the president on his trips where he can be immediately available. (Dr. George Burkley, the presidential physician, was riding well behind in the motorcade on Nov. 22).

Make Assassination a U.S. Crime

Also, it was urged that Congress adopt legislation which would make the assassination of the president or vice-president a federal crime.

"A state of affairs where U.S. authorities have no clearly defined jurisdiction to investigate the assassination of a president is anomalous," the commission said.

The commission recommended that the State Department henceforth "exercise great care in the return to this country of defectors who have evidenced disloyalty or hostility to this country or have expressed a desire to renounce their American citizenship."

Better dissemination of information about such persons should be provided intelligence agencies, the report said.

In conclusion, the commission recommended that representatives of the bar, law enforcement associations and the news media "work together to establish ethical standards concerning the collection and presentation of information to the public so that there will

be no interference with pending criminal investigations, court procedures or the right of individuals to a fair trial.

The commission, in reviewing its work, said it "has functioned neither as a court presiding over an adversary proceeding nor as a prosecutor determined to prove a case, but as a fact-finding committee to the ascertainment of the truth."

It acknowledged that one of its most difficult assignments was to determine if the assassination "was in any way directed or encouraged by unknown persons at home or abroad."

The commission said that it had found it necessary to explore hearsay and other sources of information which cannot be admitted in court proceedings.

To insure fairness to Oswald and his family, the report said, Walter E. Craig, president of the American Bar Association, had advised the commission on whether its proceedings conformed to basic principles of American justice. The procedures of the commission have been agreeable to Mrs. Marina Oswald's counsel, it was stated.

All Commission Members Concur

Each member of the commission concurred in the published findings and conclusions, the report said.

The commission was created by an executive order of President Johnson last Nov. 29, just seven days after the assassination, which directed it to evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the slaying of President Kennedy and the subsequent killing of Oswald and report the results to President Johnson. The report was delivered to Mr. Johnson last week.

Prior to Mr. Johnson's executive order, Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr had considered holding a court of inquiry on the case, and plans for congressional investigations were afoot. Once the presidential commission was created, however, these plans were abandoned.

The commission received voluminous reports from federal and state agencies, and the FBI, after sending 80 additional personnel to the Dallas office, conducted approximately 25,000 interviews and re-interviews and submitted 25,400 pages of reports to the commission.

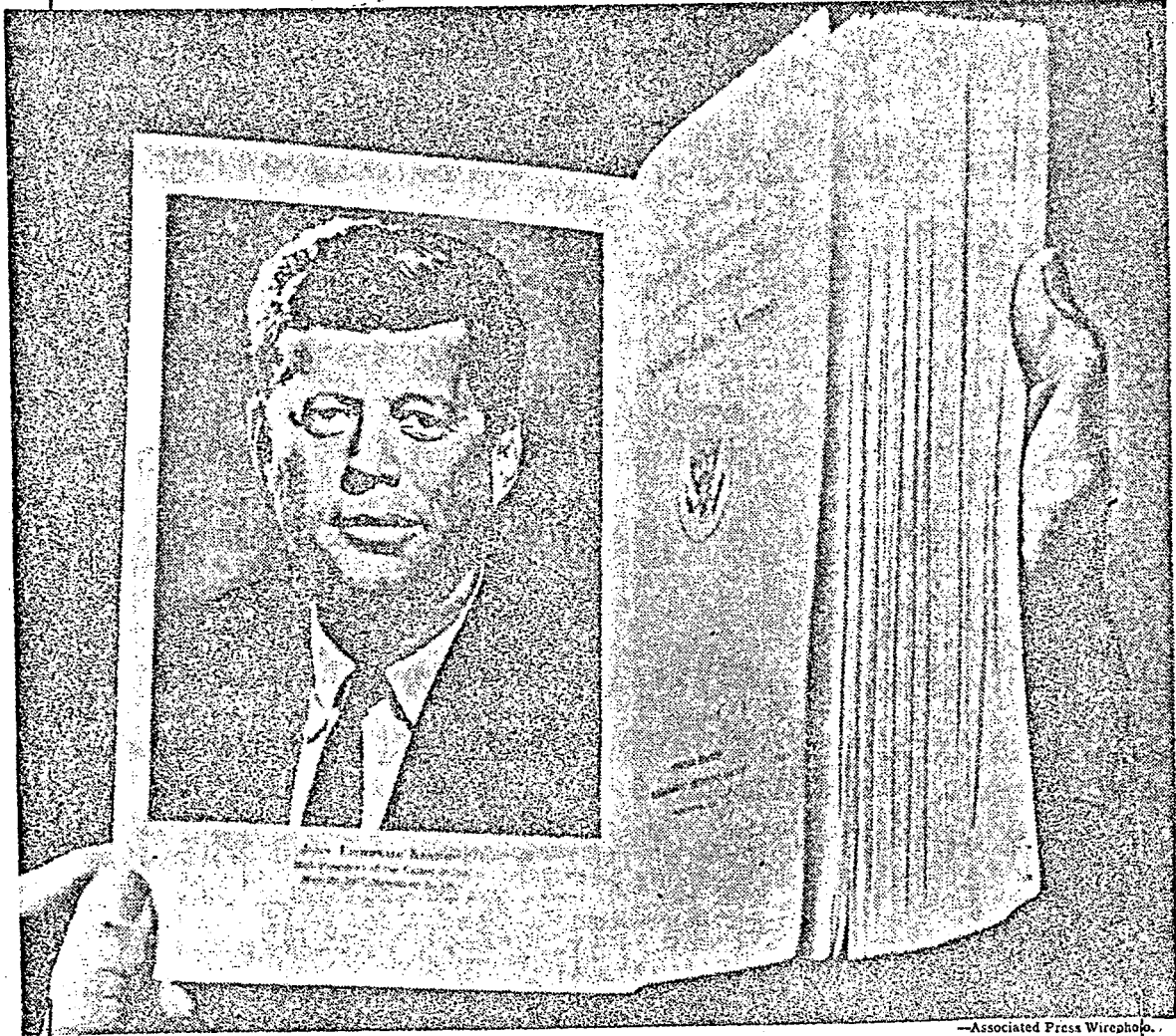
"Because of the diligence, cooperation and facilities of federal investigative agencies, it was unnecessary for the commission to employ investigators other than the members of the commission's legal staff," the report said.

"The commission recognized, however, that special measures were required whenever the facts or rumors called for an appraisal of the acts of the agencies themselves."

Accordingly, the commission said, careful reviews were made of the agencies' reports, questions were submitted to the agencies and several Cabinet-level officials were called to testify, including Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Treasury Secretary C. Douglas Dillon and CIA Director John A. McCone. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley also appeared.

The commission, throughout the report, emphasized how much attention had been given to speculation that a conspiracy was involved.

All the evidence showed that neither Russia, Cuba, political rightists or leftists, nor any other government or group had any part in what happened on those fateful November days.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Inside cover of Warren Commission report has portrait of President Kennedy.