

DALLAS REACTIONS

Jonsson Hopes Hate Myth Ended

When President John F. Kennedy arrived in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the day was much like Sunday. Skies were heavy, temperatures were in the 50s and an air of anticipation could be felt.

Anticipation was there Sunday, too, as the city waited for the release of the Warren Commission's report on its 10-month probe into the deaths of President Kennedy and his assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

When it came, the report brought a varied spectrum of reactions.

The report complained that Dallas police failed to take precautions necessary to protect Oswald's life following his arrest.

"Monday morning quarterbacking is always easier than calling the signals in the game on Saturday," said former Mayor Earle Cabell, now Democratic candidate for Congress.

The report rapped access to Oswald given the press.

"Chief of Police Jesse Curry was making every effort to in no way violate the freedom of the press. He was attempting to prove to the world at large that the civil rights of the prisoner were in no way being violated," said Cabell.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said, "As far as his trial would have gone, statements to the press would have created some real problems. But I don't think anyone will ever know just how serious these problems would have been; you just can't tell.

"Hindsight is always better than foresight," said the prosecutor.

The report exonerated Dallas, as a city, from any allegations that it had any bearing on President Kennedy's murder.

Dallas Mayor Erik Jonsson said, "I hope this will be the end of the 'climate of hate' myth. If it is, then the report will have done a service for Dallas.

"I hope that, in time, this will be The Book about these events, and I hope its exoneration of Dallas will not be overlooked," said Mayor Jonsson.

U.S. Atty. Barfoot Sanders said, "I hope this will put a stop to those wild rumors about a conspiracy of the right wing or left wing. There was never any evidence to support any of those rumors."