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- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

Rosen

Assassination and a Free Press

THE case for the whole truth in the news is well stated in a report just published by Stanford University Press. It is the result of extended study by social scientists connected with the university and is entitled, "The Kennedy Assassination and the American Public; Social Communication in Crisis."

After 10 months of study the Warren Commission failed to throw any substantial new light on this tragedy. With the exception of some relatively minor errors the account stood as written by newsmen working under the terrible pressures of the time. But the Commission saw fit to criticize these reporters for a "regrettable lack of self discipline." In what might be considered a world record for hair-splitting it opined that a jury in a trial of Harvey Oswald might have been prejudiced by some of the news reports. Oswald had been dead and buried for going on a year, at the time.

In a preface to the Stanford report Prof. Wilbur Shram, director of the university's Institute for Communications Research, takes a position directly opposite to that of the Commission.

Prof. Shram notes that, "If a suitable object for great national anger had emerged from news of the crisis, it is conceivable that a mass uprising might have occurred. But the very fullness of the news won confidence in it, and

developments cut the ground out from under any belief that a nationally dangerous conspiracy was involved."

The fact that transition to a new regime in Washington was accomplished in such orderly fashion, he adds, "must be credited in no small degree to the efficiency and amount of media attention." In "media" he includes television and radio as well as newspapers.

In every government on earth, including ours, there is an element of opinion that the public is a stupid brute, inclined to run wild if entrusted with all grisly facts in a national emergency. The evidence is to the contrary and the Kennedy assassination provided a historic example. Given the honest facts, the people will react intelligently. Suppress the facts and ugly rumor will spread.

"One of the most important deductions from the events of late November 1963," says Prof. Shram, "is that Americans trust their free press and their free broadcasting system . . . These did not fail the American people in any important way. The people got the full news, they got it fast, and they got it, with a very few exceptions, accurately."

That is a pretty conclusive answer to the censorship-minded who would have the news reporters stand back from disaster like little gentlemen and wait for a handout.

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News *P-28*
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Baltimore Sun _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date *10-19-65*

11-9060-A

NOT RECORDED
191 OCT 21 1965

*0 11/20/65
Assassination of President Kennedy
Free Press Kennedy 11/22/63
Telegraph Kennedy 11/22/63
Miscellaneous Information concerning
RFI 10/17/65*

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Belmont

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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File 62-109360

OCT 19 1965