

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

THE YOUTHFUL VIEWPOINT

Kennedy Death Is Expected to Remain Mystery Forever

By LESTER RAND

(President, Youth Research Institute)

From the looks of things, President Kennedy's assassination will remain a mystery forever. That's how teenagers have it figured.

"Even if there was a conspiracy I don't think a hundred new investigations would ever get to the bottom of it," observed Sheldon Arnett, 17, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Young people generally agreed that few murders are ever solved to everyone's satisfaction.

"It's not like when you watch Perry Mason on television and a guy always jumps up near the end of the show and confesses everything. That's the way it is in the movies also. But real life is different," explained Lewis Jenner, 19, of Danbury, Conn.

"Unless witnesses actually see a killer in action there's always going to be some doubt when a person is convicted of murder by a jury. There have been many cases of innocent people found guilty," added a 16-year-old Miami, Fla. miss.

LINCOLN CITED

A few teens printed out that books are still being written giving new slants and motivations behind President Lincoln's assassination.

All the same, only 45 per cent of young men and women recently interviewed by representatives of the Youth Research

Institute feel that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in shooting the President. According to the Warren Commission which was established by President Johnson to investigate the slaying, Oswald was definitely named as the sole individual involved.

Fifty-two per cent of teens to whom we spoke feel that it's highly likely that other individuals were implicated.

Perhaps Stuart Prenz, 16, of Seattle, Wash., expressed the majority view best—

"No matter how much evidence you have against Oswald, who can honestly say for sure that there was nobody else in on a plot to kill Kennedy? Oswald was the only one who knew the truth and he's dead," he stated emphatically.

Thirty-one per cent pointed out that several books have been written assailing conclusions drawn by the Warren Commission, and many objections raised have a certain amount of validity.

Then, too, the entire tragedy had a bizarre tinge.

How was it possible for Jack Ruby, Oswald's slayer, to accomplish his deed so easily in full sight of all, teens wonder.

What about Oswald's 2½ years spent living in Russia and his Communist connections?

"SORT OF SCREWY"

"It's sort of screwy the way Oswald went to Russia to live

and married a Russian girl and was allowed to leave when he got fed up with the place. I can understand foreigners going off to live in Russia, but I don't think they let you pack up and leave so easily when you want to," mused Stanley Curtzinger, 17, of Staten Island, N. Y.

According to 23 per cent, the crime was committed rather smoothly. Three times as many teens are still appalled that the chief executive of the United States could be killed so easily.

"It still doesn't seem possible to me that a person acting on his own would go through such thorough preparations to perform a terrible crime. There was a lot of planning involved.

The only hitch was that Oswald was caught and maybe it was planned that way so that the others could skip," speculated Sue May Robinson, 18, of Hawthorne, Calif.

"Actually, no matter how much Oswald hated Kennedy, what did he have to gain? If he was insane he certainly knew exactly what to do," said a 15-year-old Madison, Wis., girl.

But since President Kennedy's assassination, there have been other monstrous acts of senseless killings. In Austin, Tex., last summer 16 people were gunned down by a deranged sniper. Also, last summer eight young women were slain in Chicago for no apparent reason.

AGAINST NEW PROBE

Despite the majority view that Oswald did not act alone, 57 per cent vetoed a further investigation.

They explain that the Warren Commission study was unusually thorough and did a complete job. As far as questions raised concerning certain aspects of the Warren findings, teens believe that any future probes would certainly raise plenty of doubts also.

"I think the more investigations you have the more questions you're going to have," shrugged a 14-year-old Minnesotan.

"I'm sure that the FBI checked Oswald's and Ruby's backgrounds completely and looked into any friends they had who might have been involved," remarked Billy Stenner, 17, of Warwick, R. I.

"Unless there's some new evidence or somebody talks I can't see what there is to investigate," said a Newport News, Va. 16-year-old.

Thirty-four per cent favored a reopening of the case on the theory that no stone should be left unturned where the killing

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

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The Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Date: 3-2-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY 11/22/63

Character:

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O.

Being Investigated

62-159000-4
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of a president is concerned. But even this ~~scholar~~ admitted that it would probably result in a great deal of quibbling and arguing over details.

Meanwhile, teen-agers wondered what was learned from the Dallas tragedy as far as preventing a repetition is concerned.

"NOTHING DONE"

Thirty-eight per cent noted that, despite the outrage expressed at the time of the assassination over the ease with which Oswald obtained his rifle through the mails, absolutely nothing has been done to outlaw such mail-order purchases.

"Instead of haggling over something that's closed, why

don't we do everything we can to keep these things from happening again?" asked Jonathan Herbert, 18, of Nashville, Tenn.

"Things like how many shots were fired, where they came from, the angle at which they entered the body, how quickly can a rifle be fired and stuff like that can be argued until doomsday without getting any place," despaired Ralph Abrington, 16, of Chicago, Ill.

But something can be done

to forestall a similar calamity.

In this connection, 59 per cent strongly favored laws restricting purchase of rifles.

Many of this group realize that such legislation would not completely prevent shootings, but it would serve as a definite impediment.

"To say that if a person wants to kill the President he can find a way to do it is no reason not to pass laws against selling rifles and ammunition

to anyone. We should learn from our past mistakes," insisted Leonard Jorgenson, 17, of Yonkers, N. Y.

In speaking about President Kennedy's death, many teen-agers still evinced a sense of loss and bewilderment despite the intervening three years.

They recalled their strong identification with his obvious youthfulness and a hope he held out for a better world.

To a large extent, this feel-

ing underlies their reasons for not wishing to rake over the coals of his assassination. It only recalls what might have been without restoring the loss.

"President Kennedy had strong ideals and a lot of us believed them. They weren't just words. He wanted to go forward, and I think we should do the same things now," reflected a 19-year-old member of a generation which suffered a deep loss.