

Too Much Talk on Oswald

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When President Johnson appointed his special board of inquiry to determine and publish all the facts in the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the world welcomed his action as a definitive method of answering the questions about the slaying that were being raised in this country and even more insistently in Europe. Chief Justice Warren's designation to head the panel and the eminence of its other members afforded promise that no taint of partisanship or prejudice would color the findings.

These hopes of general confidence in the commission's detachment are now being clouded by a spate of advance disclosures on what its report is likely to say. The latest of these is Attorney General Kennedy's declaration in Poland that "there is no doubt" that his brother was killed by Lee H. Oswald. The Attorney General, who is known to be familiar with the panel's findings, calls Oswald "a misfit" who took out his resentment against society by shooting the President.

A much more extensive preview of the commission's conclusions, published in this newspaper a month ago, revealed that it had found no credible evidence to support theories, widely circulated abroad, that the assassination grew out of a right-wing conspiracy. We have no reason to doubt any of these reports. But public respect for the panel's verdict will be greatest if it releases its report and all the supporting data with maximum speed. The longer it waits to tell the world what it has discovered, the more intractable the preconceptions it will have to combat.