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# Answer Won't Be Easy to Find

A better and bigger U.S. Secret Service is the main recommendation of the Warren Commission for protecting presidents from assassination.

What the Warren Commission is talking about is a far greater surveillance of what the police have always called "suspicious characters" on a national and international scale. It would be unusual if this could be done without some injustices.

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Certainly in the present national atmosphere persecution and the infringement of civil rights would be charged by some who felt the cold eye of the Secret Service upon them.

Lee Harvey Oswald, as a Marxist, might have himself raised the persecution outcry had he been isolated during President Kennedy's trip to Dallas. It must be concluded from the Warren Commission report that the members of the commission believe in retrospect that Oswald should have been isolated from the proximity of President Kennedy.

The report states that the FBI had information on Oswald but had no responsibility to turn this information over to the Secret Service and "took an unduly restrictive view of its role in preventive intelligence work prior to the assassination."

If that was true, why was it true? Most likely

because political conditions, and, in fact, Supreme Court decisions, have made it imperative for the FBI to exercise the utmost caution in the use of raw files, or any information, to avoid wrongful accusation or detention.



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Suppose it had been otherwise, just what would have been the procedure? Following again the findings and recommendations of the Warren Commission, it must be assumed that the name of every known malcontent or dangerous character who was running at large in Dallas, particularly if he had ever been a defector, would have been supplied to the Secret Service by the maximum number of law enforcement agencies.

The Secret Service, having computerized such information, would have coordinated local and fe-

deral law enforcement to take into account all risks to the President of the United States from such persons.

To have done something about Oswald prior to Nov. 22, 1963 might have meant, in any comparable situation, doing something about scores of other individuals who fall within the police and FBI terminology of "bad actors." Areas of Presidential visits would be thus sanitized.

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The recommendations of the Warren Commission—and they may be the right ones—thus illustrate the nature of a severe internal problem: how to maintain respect for order, and order itself, in a society where the rights of the individual are prized higher than the procedures of law?

What are the limits of what the Warren Commission calls "preventive intelligence"? Had the Secret Service known of Oswald in Dallas should it have demanded that the Dallas police arrest him or move him out of the city during President Kennedy's visit when there was no known lawful charge against him and because he had previous Communist associations?

There are hard questions which go to the heart of confidence in the process of enforcing the law and maintaining order in this troubled period.