

# A New Chapter Unfolds in the Kennedy Legend

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The Warren Commission has not only fulfilled its primary assignment, which was to be the servant of history. It has provided enough material to

intrigue the novelists and dram-

## News

artists for generations to come.

## Analysis

and thus it has  
added materially

to the Kennedy legend. This report may not satisfy the historians that the commission has found the whole truth about the murder of President Kennedy, but legend is often more powerful than history, and the man

historians, and only among the dramatists and novelists.

Now the central mystery of who killed the President has been answered by the commission only in the process of raising a new catalogue of mysteries. Now the main characters in the play have been surrounded by a host of new characters, each of whom appears briefly at a critical moment with some vital testimony, only to disappear without our really knowing much about who they are.

The whole story is full of the mystery of life. Lee Harvey Oswald's motive for murdering the President remains obscure and his assigned mission is still a mystery. There is no one to blame and there is no one to praise and there is no one to have up on it.

The "might-have-beens" are maddening. If only he had been given that visa to go to Cuba and thence to the Soviet Union just before the assassination! If he had not been allowed to come back from there in the first place! Who was "the neighbor" who got him the job in the Texas Book Repository, from where he shot the President? And what were the details of Oswald's attempted suicide in Moscow?

The wild accidents are equally intriguing. There is for example, the case of Mrs. Eldsee who rented Oswald a room in Dallas and then

on a 10,000-to-1 chance, just happened to be on the bus he boarded when he was running away from the crime.

Then there are the consoling yearnings and kindnesses in the midst of tragedy: Ruth Paine, who was also "alienated" and "isolated," and frustrated, like Oswald, but who nevertheless "befriended"

Marina Oswald in her trouble. And there was Marina Oswald herself who seems to have been "very angry" with her husband when he was using assumed names and doing other things that apparently affronted her sense of right and wrong. Finally,

there was even a  
self leaving his  
but his last 1900 minutes a prisoner  
at home before he went to work  
on the morning of the murder.  
Who sent Oswald from Mos-  
cow to Minsk? How did he meet  
his Russian wife and how did  
they live there? Why was he  
allowed to return to the United  
States with a State Department  
pass? All we have are glimpses  
of these intriguing things. ad

The whole story is not only beyond the journalists, but beyond most historians as well. The backdrop is the conflict of the age, the clash of nations and philosophies in the last half of the 20th century, the atmosphere of intrigue, the struggle of personalities, of men and women, of ideologies and regions within the United States.

And all this, of course, centering on the family of the President—itsself a saga of triumph and tragedy.

There are no pictures of Booth murdering Lincoln, or any of the other high tragedies of American political life, but the story of this one is now on record and on film. Of Jacqueline Kennedy in that unspeakable moment of horror, scrambling onto the back of the car in Dallas, of Ruby murdering Oswald, and finally, of Jacqueline Kennedy claiming her husband at last in death.

All this reveals more than either President Johnson or the Warren Commission intended. President Johnson's instruction to Chief Justice Warren and his commission was to "satisfy itself that the truth is known so far as it can be discovered." President Johnson was not thinking of the long future. He was disturbed by the conspiratorial speculations about the assassination in England. He was merely trying to get out the facts. He was not thinking of perpetuating the Kennedy legend—and indeed, immediately it was difficult for him to remain so actively so long as Kennedy was in the White House. Kennedy was the only President who had been in the White House for less than a year.

the fact he has summed up the evidence that will allow the nation long after the fact to have agreed on Eisenhower's handling of the history.