

Lee Oswald: Some Public Doubts Remain

Public opinion sampler Louis Harris has found, disturbingly though not surprisingly, that even after publication of the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination, nearly one-third of those polled still refuse to accept the commission's major finding: Lee Harvey Oswald acted without accomplices when he shot the President.

Another 13%, Harris found, simply aren't certain whether Oswald acted alone or in league with others. Thus, despite the exhaustive work done by the commission, skepticism, disbelief and confusion remain among an apparently significant section of the American public.

The reason most often cited by the doubters was that the assassination couldn't possibly have been carried out by one man, acting independently. Yet the commission report, reconstructing Oswald's movements and probable motivations, and re-enacting the crime with all regard to technical and time considerations, shows conclu-

sively that one man could and did carry out the murder.

An equal percentage of the skeptical believe that "everything will never be known." This is undoubtedly true. With Oswald dead it obviously is impossible to investigate completely his background and attitudes. To move from this point to a tacit assumption of conspiracy, however, is to ignore abundant and convincing evidence to the contrary.

Perhaps because there is somewhere deep in the human mind a need for them, myths inevitably come to surround tragic events. Perhaps what is an unconscious craving for the mysterious, the sinister, the ambiguous succeeds in some people in displacing reason and acceptance of rational explanations. For such persons objective evidence and facts are only bothersome distractions.

For others, whose doubts and uncertainties may be based on non-emotional factors, the best answer is the Warren Commission report, so far purchased in great numbers but apparently little read.