

Hugh Trevor-Roper replies



On December 13 Professor Trevor-Roper wrote for The Sunday Times his highly critical historian's analysis of the Warren Report on President Kennedy's assassination. He found "discrepancies" between the report and the 26 volumes of evidence published with it. He asked why witnesses had not been pressed in cross-examination, why the police had destroyed the paper bag in which the assassin presumably carried the gun, why the doctor who examined the President did not keep his notes and subsequently "adjusted" his report. He suggested that the Commission had put up a "smokescreen".

The following week, after others had accused Trevor-Roper of bias and misjudgment, John Sparrow, Warden of All Souls, made on this page a searching assessment of his fellow Oxonian's criticisms, accused him of, among other things, misrepresentation in regard to the doctor's change of mind as to whether the lethal bullet entered from the front or rear, of presenting the evidence of identification by Brennan unfairly by omitting a further reference to it in the report, and of "innuendo" in regard to the paper bag, which he claimed was not in fact destroyed but handed to the Commission.