

LATEST ON MURDER OF KENNEDY:

A PREVIEW OF THE WARREN REPORT

USNWR-6/1

This is an advance report on the Warren Commission findings about the Kennedy assassination.

The conclusions, given here in some detail, are expected to be published in June. The report will piece the story together, and explode some popular myths.

After six months of intensive investigation and thousands of pages of testimony, the Warren Commission, which is investigating the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy, is going to report the following conclusions:

- All evidence is that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone and not as part of any conspiracy, was the President's assassin; that Oswald was of unstable mind.
- There is no evidence of a plot—either "right wing" or "left wing"—of which Oswald was a part. The "conspiracy" theory of the assassination, given wide currency abroad, is without the slightest foundation.
- Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald, was acting on his own. Ruby had no connection with Oswald. He had no connection with others described as accomplices in a supposed plot involving Oswald.
- Oswald got no help or encouragement from Russia, Cuba or Red China;

from integrationists or segregationists; from "left wing" or "right wing" groups. The investigating Commission, headed by Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the U. S., explored in greatest detail every lead offered to it or turned up by its investigators. The vast investigating machinery of the Federal Government was at its call.

What FBI found. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and John McCone, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, testified before the Commission on May 14.

Afterward, Mr. Hoover told newsmen the FBI was following up on all leads, including those developed by the Commission. But, he added, they have provided "nothing new of substantial value" since the original FBI report was turned in last December 5, about two weeks after President Kennedy was shot.

The Commission's schedule calls for publishing its report before the end of June. Part of the report will be devoted to listing and answering charges spread by books, articles and lectures that allege a plot of some kind.

These allegations will be shown to be baseless innuendoes, officials state. Here is how the Commission will deal with some of the more widespread rumors:

Rumor: A "Communist conspiracy" was behind the assassination—and di-

rected, or inspired, Oswald to do the shooting.

Finding: Oswald was an admitted Marxist and supporter of the Communist Castro Government in Cuba. But nothing in the mass of facts accumulated has suggested that any foreign country or political group helped in the assassination or knew of it in advance.

Although Soviet officials would not permit Commission investigators to enter Russia, two sets of files on Oswald's activities in that country were handed over to the U. S.

Commission investigators found no trails in Dallas, Miami, New Orleans, New York or Mexico City to link Oswald with any conspiracy.

Rumor: A "right wing" conspiracy supported by Texas oil millionaires and involving the Dallas police force had some connection with the assassination.

Finding: This is malicious fantasy, not supported by any facts.

Rumor: There was a cover-up. The U. S. Government gagged the Dallas police and suppressed evidence showing the assassination was connected somehow with an international plot.

Finding: The police were not gagged. Some evidence was impounded until the Warren Commission could make its investigation. This evidence throws some more light on Oswald as an individual.

(continued on next page)
(over)

THIS PHOTOGRAPH, made a split second after President Kennedy was shot, was described as "probably the most controversial photograph of the decade" in the May 22 issue of "The New York Herald Tribune."

It shows President Kennedy clutching at his throat as he falls forward. It also shows, in the background, a man who resembles Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository. The head is encircled in this copy of the photo.

That man's presence, on the first floor of the Depository, set off widespread rumors that Oswald could not be the assassin who fired from the sixth floor.

The FBI, however, has established beyond doubt that the man in the doorway was not Oswald. The FBI knows who the man is and has interviewed him at length. The photograph did not change the Warren Commission's conclusions about the case.



—Wide World Photo

OLNWR-6/1

and on the movements of both Oswald and Ruby in Dallas at the time of the assassination. But it does not change the essential elements of the case.

Rumor: Four shots, not three, were fired at President Kennedy.

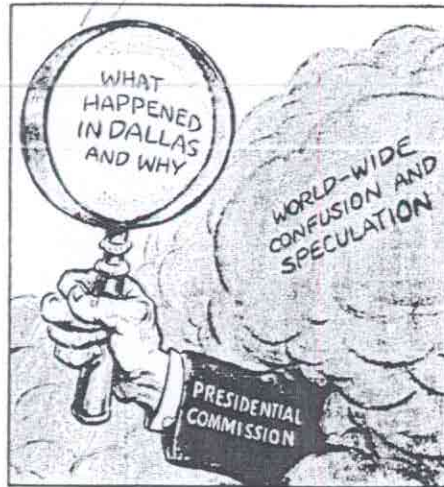
Finding: The official autopsy of the President's body the night of November 22 shows Mr. Kennedy was first hit in the right shoulder. A second bullet struck Texas Governor John Connally. A third hit the President's head and killed him. There was no fourth bullet.

Rumor: One assassin fired at the President from an unguarded railroad overpass in front of his limousine, so at least two assassins were involved.

Finding: There was one assassin and he fired all three bullets from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, behind Mr. Kennedy's car.

A wound in Mr. Kennedy's throat was caused by a fragment of the bullet which entered his head from behind. The doctors in a Dallas hospital who first identified the throat wound as an "entry" wound, indicating it came from the front, never made a thorough examination of the President's body. They were preoccupied, during the time they attended Mr. Kennedy, with trying to revive breathing. The official autopsy report is expected to be a part of the Commission's findings.

A bullet fragment also struck the back of the presidential limousine's windshield. Two newspapermen who saw the hole, but were not allowed to examine it closely, wrote accounts that became one basis for speculation that at



—Hutton in "Philadelphia Inquirer"

"OUT OF THE SMOG WITH A GOOD FIRM GRIP"

least one bullet was fired from the railroad overpass ahead of the Kennedy car.

Rumor: Jack Ruby killed Oswald to silence him.

Finding: This is absolutely without foundation in fact. Despite some suggestive circumstances, no substantial evidence has been discovered linking the two men before Ruby shot Oswald.

Rumor: Somebody in Dallas wanted Oswald silenced before he could talk; that is the only way that Oswald's murder, while he was surrounded by police, can be explained.

Finding: There is no evidence to support this charge. Oswald's encounter with Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit, who was killed by Oswald, and Oswald's slaying by Ruby, were not part of a planned pattern.

Facts and theories. The official report will conclude that Oswald was unstable. The Commission, however, is not expected to pinpoint a single, certain motive for the assassination, but rather a general conclusion.

One theory to be advanced is that Oswald hated all authority and was especially resentful of President Kennedy for his stand against Cuba.

The Commission is also expected to report on security measures used to protect the President and on how they should be improved. Roles of the Secret Service and the FBI will be discussed at length.

So sensitive is this area of the investigation that some material uncovered about the Secret Service and the FBI may not be published. Chief Justice Warren was referring to that type of information when he said some matters

might "not be released in your lifetime" for fear of jeopardizing U. S. security.

The Commission report is to be one of the lengthiest Government documents of all time. In it will be the testimony of more than 400 persons, the personal histories of key people in the tragedy, and expert opinions on the ballistics, medicine and psychiatry involved in the case. A 500-page summary may accompany the full report.

Back of the painstaking investigation, carried on in Europe and Latin America as well as the U. S., is the urgent desire by President Johnson to document the case fully and immediately.

Experience has shown that, as memories fade, witnesses often change their stories, leaving the picture muddy. Mr. Johnson wants all testimony in the case cemented into print, under oath.

Theories abroad. Underlying the investigation, too, is the official realization that many people, especially outside the U. S., still believe Oswald had accomplices. In France, opinion polls indicate that 75 to 80 per cent of the public may believe a plot is involved.

Commission members hope their report will answer the doubts. But they state that some aspects of the case will always be a mystery since only Oswald could have cleared them up.

As it puts the final touches on its report, the Warren Commission is convinced it has carried out President Johnson's instructions: "to satisfy itself that the truth is known so far as it can be discovered, and to report its findings and conclusions . . . to the world."



—UPI Photo

Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, not as part of any conspiracy, evidence shows



—UPI Photo

Jack Ruby, despite rumors, did not kill Oswald to silence him, report will say