

WARREN FINDINGS: SOME NEW FACTS

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An eyewitness report—undisclosed until now—a lie-detector test, other surprises helped round out the final record of the Kennedy assassination.

Reported from
DALLAS and WASHINGTON

As time drew near for release of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy, new light was shed on the case in several major areas.

Barring last-minute changes in the Commission's 500-page summary, which includes some surprises, the report was expected to show:

- That President Kennedy's decision to ride in an open car, instead of a closed, bulletproof limousine which the Secret Service preferred, contributed in a substantial way to the tragedy.

- That the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U. S. Secret Service and the Dallas police department shared in mishandling certain aspects of the case before and after the assassination.

- That Jack Ruby slipped into the Dallas city jail, where he killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's suspected assassin, during the one moment when a tunnel into the building was left unguarded. After a long investigation, officials have concluded that no policemen saw or aided Ruby as he entered the building—contrary to rumors published in the European press.

- That highly reliable witnesses who saw the assassin's rifle in a window of the Texas School Book Depository Building included Mrs. Earle Cabell, wife of the former mayor of Dallas. There is no evidence that a second assassin fired from a railroad overpass in front of the President's limousine.

Main findings. The Commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, has reached these major conclusions: that Oswald was apparently the lone gunman who killed President Kennedy; that Oswald did not know Ruby; and that neither Oswald nor Ruby was connected with any assassination plot involving others.

But there are some surprises in the report, including revelations on how the President's life was—and is—protected.

One team of Commission lawyers

spent six months investigating reports of poor co-ordination among the FBI, the Secret Service and the Dallas police.

Official sources say the FBI had a great deal of information on Oswald, but apparently did not advise the Dallas police before the President's visit that the young ex-marine should be watched.

Dallas officials say they complied with every request of the Secret Service, which takes over virtually all police functions along presidential-parade routes, and that the city even supplied more patrolmen than the Secret Service requested.

Ruby's route. Investigators also turned up what reliable sources say is the true story of how Ruby entered the Dallas city jail. According to this testimony, Ruby was near an automobile tunnel into the building when a police car approached the street from the jail area. A policeman who was guarding the tunnel on foot momentarily left his post to halt traffic so the police car could leave the building.

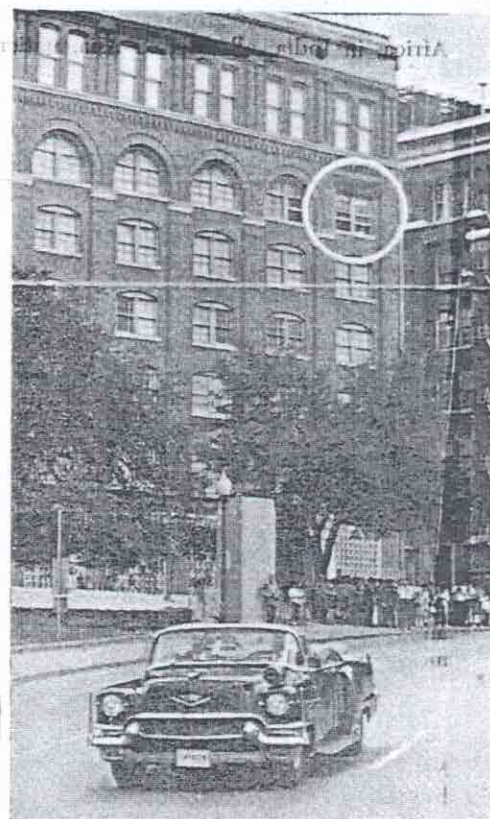
In the moment before the officer returned to his post, Ruby is said to have darted across the sidewalk and down the tunnel to the jail area where he shot Oswald. The officer later took a lie-detector test which backed up his claim that he never saw Ruby.

Results of this investigation are considered important by Commission officials in the light of claims by some writers in Europe that the Dallas police were involved in a plot against Mr. Kennedy. No evidence supports these claims, the Commission says.

The fateful decision. A major factor in the tragedy, the Commission has been told, was President Kennedy's decision to ride in an open car. A White House official, immediately after the assassination, reportedly told the Secret Service: "It's not your fault. We had a choice between security and politics, and we chose politics."

Mrs. Earle Cabell, whose husband was mayor of Dallas when the tragedy occurred, is among top-level witnesses to the assassination whose testimony has been kept secret until now. She was in a car a short distance behind the presidential limousine and almost directly under the Depository Building when she heard the first shot.

Mrs. Cabell looked up, spotted the rifle, and shouted to her husband, "Oh,



—Wide World Photo

ASSASSINATION RE-ENACTED in Dallas. Evidence from witnesses in the presidential motorcade now establishes clearly that killer fired from circled window.

Earle, it's a gun!" She could not see a human face or form, however.

Mayor Cabell, who had been facing forward, turned around and said, "Oh, no, it's probably—" but his remark was cut off by the sound of a second shot. A third shot was fired quickly thereafter, Mrs. Cabell has said.

The sound of all three shots, she is quoted as saying, clearly came from the Depository Building. Her eyewitness account is in contrast to a widespread European theory, which U. S. officials say is unsupported by evidence, that at least one of the three shots came from a second gunman on a railroad overpass ahead of the presidential car.

Some of this evidence has come to light only recently, including new facts turned up by Chief Justice Warren himself during a visit to Dallas—and an interview with Ruby—on June 7.

All of the story? Emergence of this new material at this late date, Commission sources say, bears out the contention of J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, that the case will be investigated "for years to come." At this point, however, the Commission is convinced that all major elements in the report are in order, and that the document will stand without substantial change.