

SABP SEA

Civil war rages over JFK's death

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"Duly attested, the lie was now legally true. For minds trained in the law, legal truth is the same thing as truth without qualification. To everyone else, the equivalence seems very far from evident."—Aldous Huxley (died Nov. 22, 1963).

The conflict over the assassination of President Kennedy is not new.

A civil war has been going on among government officials and within the national press for three years, but it is more vocal and much more violent today.

Late in December, 1963, an article in New Republic by Staughton Lynd and Jack Minnis raised some basic, obvious questions about conflicting reports of the assassination:

These questions were prompted by widespread reports of a fourth bullet, which went uninvestigated, and by the Dallas doctors' statements indicating Kennedy's throat wound was caused by a bullet entering from the front.

When the Warren Report was published in September, 1964, it had not answered those original, basic questions. Rather, the issues were obscured as a result of the commission's work.

Basic to the commission's single assassin theory was the necessity to prove that Kennedy's wounds had been inflicted from the rear. They also had to prove that Kennedy and Gov. John Connally were hit by the same bullet, since one man could not have fired the assassination rifle in the time

the two men were shot.

The manner in which the commission handled evidence and witnesses to prove the assumptions clearly reveals grave procedural faults.

The commission solved one of its problems by eliciting a statement from the Dallas doctors that Kennedy's throat wound might have been made by an exiting bullet. Although the doctors considered the hypothesis unlikely, their testimony was used to prove that part of the official theory.

As proof one bullet hit both Kennedy and Connally, a series of ballistics experiments were relied on. These were to determine the history of the bullet (Exhibit #399) found on a stretcher at the Dallas hospital.

After determining that bullet 399 had been fired from the assassination rifle, the commission performed more tests. They had experts fire identical bullets at cadavers and animals and each time the bullets emerged mutilated.

Bullet 399, however, had been found clean, whole and undistorted.

The commission asked an expert on forensic medicine, Lt. Col. Pierre A. Finck, if bullet 399 could have caused Connally's wrist wound. He answered, "No, for the reason that there are too many fragments described in the wrist."

The commission's defenders are calling, in effect, for peace without victory, but the dialogue must not cease until the truth is found.

The tenuous facts upon which the Warren Commission has based its conclusions have now come under attack from Congressional leaders, lawyers and even prestigious Life magazine. All have called for another investigation into the death of President Kennedy.

The basis of our judicial system is the belief in acceptance of facts "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The Warren Commission has failed in its attempt to establish the facts concerning the death of President Kennedy. A reasonable doubt remains. A new investigation should be called for to allay these fears. (7/1)