

A Jack Ruby 'suicide' is predicted

REPORTING on investigatory visits to Dallas, Miami and Washington concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, Thomas Buchanan (Paris Express, March 19) predicted that although Jack Ruby has been condemned to death for killing Lee Harvey Oswald, assassination suspect, "he will not die in the electric chair."

"He will not live long enough for that," Buchanan said. "The ground has been perfectly prepared. Ruby's purported

insanity will give plausibility to his attempt at suicide. And this attempt, I am convinced, will succeed."

Buchanan called upon the Johnson-Warren commission to place Ruby under its protection without delay, and not "leave him in the hands of a police force, one or more of whose members hope to reduce him to silence."

Buchanan said his full report on the case was "in good hands in Washington at the request of a member of the Warren commission," Howard P. Willens, liaison officer between the commission and the Justice Department. Buchanan was directed to Willens after an interview with Assistant Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach. Willens "took detailed notes," Buchanan said, and examined Buchanan's photographs taken in Dallas.

WINDSHIELD HOLE? "One of the main anxieties" in Washington, Buchanan reported, was "to discredit by all means" the testimony of St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter Richard Dudman that there was a "small, round bullet hole" in the front windshield of President Kennedy's car. Other newsmen insisted that Dudman "must have been mistaken" but the windshield had been brought to the commission and taken away again under wraps, and the newsmen never got a look at it. Buchanan said his investigation in Dallas persuaded him that a bullet aimed from the railway bridge at the President's throat would have passed just over the

windshield, so that if there was a hole it was produced by a bullet that missed the target.

If Dudman's statement was correct, Buchanan said, it would mean that a fourth bullet was fired. He said "an official investigator" had assured him that if there were four shots, "there must have been two assassins," it being impossible for one man to have fired four shots in the brief time in which the Kennedy car was passing.

Before Buchanan left Washington, the commission heard a Dallas citizen, James Richard Worrell, testify that he heard four shots—as against FBI insistence there were only three. Buchanan said the Washington visit strengthened his confidence in the commission, and declared he does not question the honest intentions of the Justice Department. He was assured that the commission would question all employees of the Dallas book depot.

THEORY ON RUBY: In Dallas, Buchanan looked into the theory that Ruby might have been the assassin on the bridge. (Buchanan has theorized that the assassination involved a plot by seven persons.) In any case Ruby was alone in the Dallas Morning News building just before the crime, and was also there a few minutes after it, and no one saw him in the interim. (Buchanan had already noted that it is a 2½-minute run from the bridge to the newspaper office.) Neither Ruby's lawyer nor prosecutor Wade probed at the trial into whether

or not Ruby showed signs of a recent physical effort when the newspaper's employees returned to the building on the assassination day.

In an earlier article of his series in L'Express (March 12), Buchanan addressed himself to persons outside the U.S. in pinpointing absurdities of the official version of Kennedy's assassination. The fact that Ruby was so intimate with the Dallas police as to be able to kill Oswald under their eyes, in their own headquarters, has popularized abroad the theory that gangsters organized the Kennedy assassination with the complicity of the Dallas police. But gangsters clearly had no interest in eliminating the President, Buchanan said; in any case Dallas is not one of the worst U.S. cities with regard to ties between police and gangsters—New York, for example, being worse, as the Kefauver report showed.