

'IRRATIONAL ACTION BY AN INDIVIDUAL'

Warren board will report

THE WARREN Commission was reported March 29 to be "convinced it has received most of the pertinent information" and ready to begin writing its report on President Kennedy's assassination, despite a growing body of evidence and speculation that challenges the official account.

The commission let the press know that it "is well aware of the persistent rumors, many of which got into print abroad, that the shootings both of Kennedy and the man accused of killing him, Lee Harvey Oswald, 24, were part of a political plot." In addition, according to the commission, its report will "dispel any such ideas" by officially concluding that the assassination was "an irrational action by an individual" since the case against Oswald "lacks a motive explicable by the workings of an ordinary

mind."

On March 28, the commission heard W. W. Scoggins, Helen Markham, Barbara Jeanette Davis and Ted Callaway—all of whom, according to commission member Allen Dulles, saw Oswald "in the vicinity" when patrolman J. D. Tippit was killed. Dulles said that only one of the witnesses, whom he did not name, testified that he had seen Oswald fire at the policeman.

Meanwhile, Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade revealed that he knew of more than three witnesses who swore they had seen Ruby and Oswald together before President Kennedy's assassination, but said that he had decided not to use their testimony during the Ruby trial. "I knew that three of them had failed lie detector tests," Wade said March 18, and added that he doubted

the accuracy of their statements.

'OFFICIAL' BOOK: The Kennedy family announced March 26 that Mrs. John F. Kennedy had selected William Manchester, managing editor of the Wesleyan University Press at Middletown, Conn., to write the "authorized and exclusive" book about the Nov. 22 assassination. A press release made available at Robert F. Kennedy's Justice Department said that "because versions of what occurred Nov. 20-25 already have appeared" and others are in preparation, the Kennedy family authorized Manchester to write the account "in the interest of historical accuracy and to prevent distortion and sensationalism." The book will appear in three to five years and will be published by Harper & Row (also publisher of President Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage" and Ted Sorenson's forthcoming book about the late President). The company said it would donate profits above Manchester's less than \$50,000 advance and a "moderate return" on its investment to the Kennedy Memorial Library at Harvard.

Manchester, the author of *Portrait of a President*—an anecdotal and impressionistic picture of Kennedy—has also written biographical studies of the Rockefeller family and H. L. Mencken, as well as four novels, including *The Long Gainer* and *Beard the Lion*. He is former correspondent for the *Baltimore Sun*.