

Ratfink Venomous

As we all know now, the Warren Report is so full of holes that anyone of a sedulous turn of mind can get himself a little fame by plowing through it and pointing out a few more of them. One more of such is hardly to stop the presses by.

And most of such critiques have been easily discreditable, for the sheer fantasy of their alternative theories, or for their slanderous accusations against the Warren Commission.

The truth is, the Warren Report served a useful function, at the time, in spiking the conspiracy rumors, which were getting way

Obviously there must have been more people involved than Oswald, and his double. And Oswald, even if he didn't pull the trigger, was a party to the ploy. But this new slant doesn't require a grand conspiracy involving Khruschev, Castro, General Walker, LBJ, and the cop on the beat. However, I don't intend to outline for you the author's whole theses. Read him yourself. It's worth your while.

(Note to BARB proofreaders: In the small space of my column in the last issue, I counted a total of nine typographical errors; all of them clumsy, and none with the merit of being amusing. You have incurred the wrath of the Ratfink. And my bite is poisonous.)

R.R.

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out of hand. Only a certain mentality really likes conspiratorial theories. Most of us wouldn't be sleeping too well if we really believed that the Communists or the Minutemen or the Pentagon warhawks, or whoever, were actually riding so firm in the saddle that they could bump off presidents at will and get the highest in the land to cover up for them. Who then would be safe?

Hence the importance of a new critique of the Warren Report which is temperately presented, written without sensationalism, and which doesn't merely point out flaws but presents an acceptable atternative theory based not on guesswork and theorizing but on the evidence uncovered by the Commission. This will do as a blurb for THE SECOND OSWALD, by Richard Popkin (Avon Library/New York Review of Books; 950) now available on your local news-1 stand.

The author's main point is that there were too many times, revealed in testimony before the Commission, that Oswald was reported in two places at once. The Commission tended to brush these off on the grounds that "it couldn't have been Oswald, we know where he was." The common sense solution would be that Oswald had a double, and that is the precise point of this book.