

THE MINORITY OF ONE

DEDICATED TO THE ERADICATION OF ALL RESTRICTIONS ON THOUGHT

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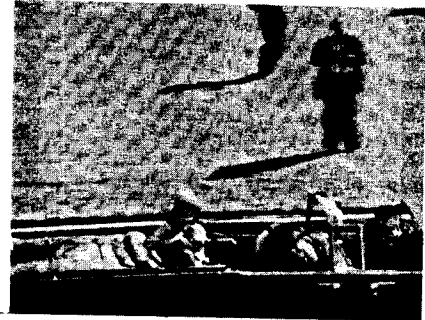
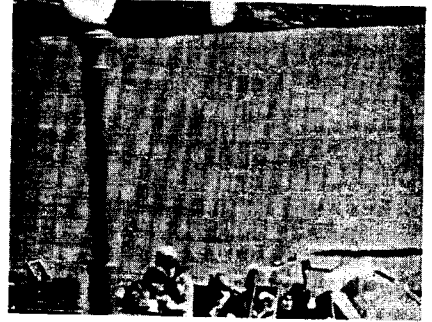
The Relevance of an Inquest

A new book pertaining to the Kennedy assassination, Edward Jay Epstein's *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth* (see a review elsewhere in this issue), contains new data sufficient for thoughtful people to become convinced that the lone-assassin claim of the Warren Commission is untenable. Among the revelations in Mr. Epstein's book is FBI-gathered evidence that is incompatible with the Warren Report's over-all theory. First proof to this effect was found in the National Archives

by Vincent Salandria, Esq., and published in the April issue of this publication. Typically, when Mr. Harrison E. Salisbury, Assistant Managing Editor of *The New York Times* and its chief expert on data pertaining to the assassination, read the Salandria article he wrote us on March 24th:

"While I was very interested to read Mr. Salandria's findings, I do not believe that the report contains enough new material to make a story for us."

This reaction is typical in that it reveals not only the correspondent's but also American society's amazing indifference toward the truth about the assassination. Had the setting of this historic tragedy and its aftermath been, not American, but, let's say, French, Epstein's book, together with all the other already published material that compromises the Warren Report, would suffice



for no shred of the Warren yarn to survive. *J'accuse* both electrified and changed France; *Inquest* will neither electrify nor change America. Americans have grown quite comfortable with the lullaby quality of the Warren Report; they are not going to welcome attempts to undermine their equilibrium, such as it is. Even if someone broke into the National Archives and retrieved, from among the documents which are to remain secret for 75 years, a black-on-white blueprint of the assassination, revealing the political plot that not only took the life of a President but also significantly altered American policy, he would be less welcomed as a crusader for truth than derided as a publicity seeker, trouble maker and fanatic.

The author of *Inquest* is no social iconoclast. It is amazing how few social conclusions he draws from the miscarriage of justice he helps to expose. Even the Warren Commission itself escapes his somewhat over-restrained judgment with much respectability left in its account. Even while helping to raise the official curtain that has been drawn over the assassination case, Epstein nonetheless joins the chorus of anti-"demonologists." But all this reluctance to go wherever his own evidence might take him will hardly save his intellectual *bona fides*; for the sin of not swallowing an officially prescribed legend, he will be considered a fanatic.

In our super-pragmatic mentality anyone is a fanatic who insists on truth prevailing for its own sake. If he could show that by unearthing the facts of the Kennedy assassination, the wages or profits of so-and-so-many people would be affected, he would gain precisely that many partisans; if the disclosures produced a justification for sending ever more U.S. troops to Asia or the notorious U.S. aircraft overflights over

China, he would be praised for not having bowed to the Warren Report—but in the absence of an acceptable ulterior motive, truth is the least sought commodity in our society. Unless it serves an advantage, it is deemed less desirable than seemingly advantageous falsehood.

That is why most Americans are not interested in the real assassination story. That is also why no evidence can be sufficiently compromising to the generally accepted theory to have the kind of impact on America that Zola's crusade had on France. Even if someone succeeded in proving beyond dispute that John F. Kennedy was assassinated to make possible that war escalation which we now witness in Southeast Asia, his unchallengeable proof would be challenged, and his supporters and opponents would be divided quite exactly along the line of support and opposition to the war.

Thus, President Kennedy is buried not only under a heap of soil but also under an impregnable layer of moral callousness of the society that hailed him as Chief and that grieved for his untimely end.

Yet, there are in our midst exceptional people whose minds can think and not merely calculate, and whose intellects maintain no neutrality as between truth and falsehood. From among these people come a few independent researchers, journalists and writers, amateur and professional, who

have been making no less than heroic efforts to unravel the answers to how, why and what-for John F. Kennedy was felled. They do not know whether their investigations lead to "good" or "bad" results, yet they act out of that incorruptible human inquisitiveness that accounts for all progress. To them belongs the praise of future generations. One day there may even prevail an appreciation that had the nation shared the moral fiber of these few individuals, catastrophic developments to ourselves and other nations would have been averted.