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NO REST IN PEACE

FOR KENNEDY

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● They won't let John Fitzgerald Kennedy rest.

Three years after his assassination, a half dozen books of conjecture and speculation about the whys and wherefores of that black day in Dallas, and the events that followed, are selling feverishly. Together with countless magazine and newspaper features, the books have cast a smog over the Report of the Warren Commission.

To combat this massive blight on the credibility of the distinguished panel that investigated the murder, the Kennedy family recently turned over to the National Archives certain grisly evidence calculated to demolish the commission's detractors.

Autopsy Photos

It consisted mainly of photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy performed on JFK's corpse at Bethesda (Md.) Naval Hospital.

The dread documentation was

turned over originally to the President's grief-numbed brother, Robert, by Chief Justice Earl Warren, who felt that the pictures might otherwise fall into unscrupulous hands; might even be exhibited in what he called a "circus carnival."

The photos and X-rays are available now to Government investigators, accredited historians, and other interested parties.

The delivery of this conclusive evidence strikes at erratic conclusions by anti-commission authors to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald was not the lone killer. It confirms without sensible contradiction the findings of

the team of doctors that performed the autopsy.

It illuminates the commission's theory that the bullet that struck the President in the back of his neck did emerge from the front of his neck and in all probability continued its short flight to his second target,

Texas Governor John Conally

It destroys the contention of several of the detracting authors that the wound in the front of JFK's neck was the point of entrance of a second assassin's bullet. It was the exit wound of a bullet fired from Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle.

The Opposition

But will history "buy" this unfettered truth in the light of all the doubts that have been spread? The public's access to the Kennedy family documents now in the National Archives is minuscule compared to the easy access it has to a wealth of suspect but absorbing literature. That ever-mounting and increasingly morbid bookshelf now is dominated by:

Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest," with an introduction by New Yorker

magazine's Richard H. Rovere, "Whitewash," by Harold Weisberg, privately printed at first and laced with ludicrous charges of dark conspiracies; "The Oswald Affair," by Leo Sauvage; printed first in French; Sylvan Fox's "The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination;" Richard N. Popkin's "The Second Oswald;" and Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment," introduced by Hugh Trevor-Roper.

There is in addition a strange, wandering little book by Texas country newspaper editor Penn Jones Jr., "Forgive My Grief," given national ventilation in Ramparts Magazine.

Jones believes the Warren Commission should have devoted at least five years to its probe instead of less than one.

Few Believe

An Oct. 3 Louis Harris poll revealed the astonishing dimensions of that doubt. It indicated that fewer

persons than before believed Oswald killed the President, and 54 per cent suspected that the Warren Commission suppressed important portions of the story of the tragedy.

Nearly one-third of the samplings felt the Kennedy assassination was part of some broader plot. Eleven per cent was convinced it was Communist-inspired, 5 per cent were sure there was some conspiratorial link between Oswald and Ruby, and a troubling — or troubled — 2 per cent thought Lyndon B. Johnson had

masterminded the catastrophe!

Two yet-to-be published books, Jim Bishop's "The Day Kennedy Was Shot" and William Manchester's "The Death of a President" will not join in the broadside against the Warren Commission.

The Bishop book, already two years in preparation, will not be published for another three. But the President's widow and Sen. Robert Kennedy have attempted to discourage further work on the Bishop book. Bishop has found certain doors in Washington closed to him but is continuing his research.

Manchester was selected by Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Kennedy. All efforts were made to supply him with the needed details of that last day in the life of the young President. Following the assassination, Mrs. Kennedy was besieged by publishers who sought her personal story of the shocking experience. She rejected all such overtures until persuaded that she should participate in helping keep historically accurate an horrendous happening that was wobbling out of focus.

The rash of anti-Warren Commission books has caused the Kennedy family additional grief. But the reaction at the White House and the FBI has been one of pure indignation.

When he put the commission together, he made a point of getting the most divergent views obtainable, President Johnson has explained.

Chief Justice Warren didn't want to serve. He sent word to the President to that effect. LBJ told him that he had no choice; that he had to be on the commission, in fact, lead it. The President told him he wanted and needed the highest judicial figure in this country to head the commission.

The Government had to come forward with a complete and comprehensive report to stop all the guessing. And the Report was unanimous.

The progenitor of the skepticism, Epstein, has been the only representative of it to date who has stated publicly that the photos and X-rays turned over by the Kennedy family probably destroys his and all the other premises.

J. Edgar Hoover castigated Lane at one of the Washington hearings. FBI spokesmen speak of Lane and-or his book with such words as "contrived," "suppositions," "irresponsible," and "cancerous." The FBI has listed Lane's associations with a number of organizations cited in "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," issued by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

There is little likelihood that President Johnson will order another investigation. To do so would (1) insult the chief justice and some of the most influential members of Congress, and (2) constitute a surrender to an epidemic of downgraders he thoroughly deplors.

In the meantime, all that is mortal of the 35th President of the United States seeks peace and quiet on a gentle slope in Arlington. The odds are against his finding it.

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