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# John Kennedy: an Ill Man?

LAT-12/5/66

BY DREW PEARSON

West Germany's leading news magazine, Stern, is the first periodical in the world to publish what may well be the real explanation for one suppressed part of the investigation of President Kennedy's death.

Stern's senior editor Henri Nannen came to Washington to investigate the assassination, and talked with members of the Warren Commission. He is convinced that the Warren Report is accurate and that no other assassin aside from Lee Harvey Oswald was involved.

But Stern explains the suppression of the autopsy report on the grounds that Mr. Kennedy was suffering from Addison's disease and his family did not want it known. This would have been revealed in the autopsy report.

The Kennedys had reason to keep silent," says Stern. "A sick Kennedy was killed in Dallas. Kennedy had Addison's disease. This is not totally unknown; Theodore Sorenson mentioned it in his 'Kennedy' biography.

There is no medical reason why a man afflicted with this disease should not be President (since the illness can be controlled like diabetes), but politically Kennedy's illness could become dangerous. Addison's illness—it sounds sinister. Few Americans know of it and its symptoms.

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For the Kennedys there was no doubt of the murderer—Lee Harvey Oswald." Continues Stern: "Already in 1964 Robert Kennedy told Egon Vacek, 'Don't you think I would do everything to get the real murderer if I had any doubts?'

But the Kennedys went one step further: in the detailed autopsy report of the Addison condition, which would mean that the illness and its degree was to be kept a secret. This intent of secrecy seems to be shown also through the fact that the Kennedys hid the X rays, even from the Warren Commission . . . Dr. A. J. McSweeney confirms that X rays could have revealed the Addison's disease.

This would also explain the lack of date on the Warren Commission autopsy report. This report was in

effect changed so that it contained no mention of the President's illness.

"To the quite evident question of why the Kennedys should refuse to admit that the President was not killed by a bullet in his back . . . not one of the speculators has been able to give an answer.

"The suppression of the Addison's disease in the autopsy report explains also the attitude of the doctor who requested the inclusion in the Warren Report of the fact that he destroyed his notes . . . otherwise hundreds of people would have been faced with lying under oath, which was impossible."

When the late President Kennedy was a candidate for the Democratic nomination, the report persisted that he was suffering from Addison's disease. However, this was emphatically denied by the Kennedy family. Later many physicians pointed out that the swelling of the late President's face—he became much fuller-faced after entering the White House—was the result of cortisone, which he had been taking in heavy doses to check Addison's disease. Doctors state that cortisone has several side effects—a puffy face, increased sex urge, and overconfidence. END