

The Hard Evidence Against Oswald

It is far from apparent, after the long journey through the massive Warren Report as well as much preceding literature and contemporaneous news stories, whether Oswald was part of a conspiracy, a fall-guy set up to appear so guilty that the real assassins would have immunity from suspicion, completely innocent, or, as the Warren Report contends, a man who acted alone and assassinated the President. There is evidence that incriminates Oswald, although considerably less than the Warren Report claims: it seems conclusive that Oswald purchased a revolver and a rifle by mail order, and that both weapons were in the possession of the Dallas police shortly after the assassination and the Tippit murder. It is also certain that Oswald made an unscheduled and unusual visit to Irving the night before the assassination, and that he was present in the Depository at the time of the crime. It is not absolutely certain, however, that the fatal shots came from his weapons or that he himself pulled the trigger. Neither fingerprints nor eyewitness testimony establish those allegations beyond a reasonable doubt.

Against those contentions must be posed (1) Oswald's lack of motive (2) his unwavering denial of guilt (3) his dubious qualifications as a marksman (4) the extreme implausibility of the actions attributed to him between the moment of the assassination and his arrest scarcely an hour later, which requires that he met a time-table which barely brings his alleged movements within the range of possibility and the precision of which does not correspond to life, random as it is and characterized by the unpredictable hitch which crops up to delay and obstruct human plans (5) the still-unexplored indications of conspiracy (6) the sinister role of the Dallas police in depriving Oswald of his right to counsel (7) their failure to produce a transcript of interrogation (8) the absence of information on almost six hours of interrogation (9) the quick murder of Oswald by a hanger-on of the police (10) the failure of responsible agencies at any stage to consider any hypothesis other than Oswald's sole guilt, and, now (11) the grave defects in the Warren Report and its determination to seal his guilt by fair means or foul.

Today, after the labors of the Warren Commission, we have as little certainty that Oswald was the assassin of President Kennedy as we had when he was alive and at the tender mercies of the Dallas police. The

indictments which should have been handed down by the Warren Commission --against the Dallas police, District Attorney Wade, the FBI, the Secret Service, and the press--have been quashed. Instead of objective criticism of the Warren Report and recognition of its defects, we have heard a gusher of extravagant praise and facile concurrence with its findings.

Those who cannot believe that it is possible for justice to be perverted in this country, even at the highest levels, should bear in mind that the murderers of Emmet Till, Medgar Evers, the Birmingham children, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, among others, are still at large. Conversely, there is ample literature on the shocking number of convicted "murderers" who turned out to be innocent, after many years of imprisonment and in some cases after eleventh-hour reprieve from execution. Nor should we forget that, to our national shame, police authorities themselves have been implicated in many crimes and criminal conspiracies, and not only in the Deep South.

The Warren Report gives us no justification for declaring that the case is closed. Conscience demands that the search for the whole truth must continue.

indictments which should have been handed down by the Warren Commission --against the Dallas police, District Attorney Wade, the FBI, the Secret Service, and the press--have been quashed. Instead of objective criticism of the Warren Report and recognition of its defects, we have heard a gusher of extravagant praise and facile concurrence with its findings.

Those who cannot believe that it is possible for justice to be perverted in this country, even at the highest levels, should bear in mind that the murderers of Emmet Till, Medgar Evans, the Birmingham children, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, among others, are still at large. Conversely, there is ample literature on the shocking number of convicted "murderers" who turned out to be innocent, after many years of imprisonment and in some cases after eleventh-hour reprieve from execution. Nor should we forget that, to our national shame, police authorities themselves have been implicated in many crimes and criminal conspiracies, and not only in the Deep South.

The Warren Report gives us no justification for declaring that the case is closed. Conscience demands that the search for the whole truth must continue.