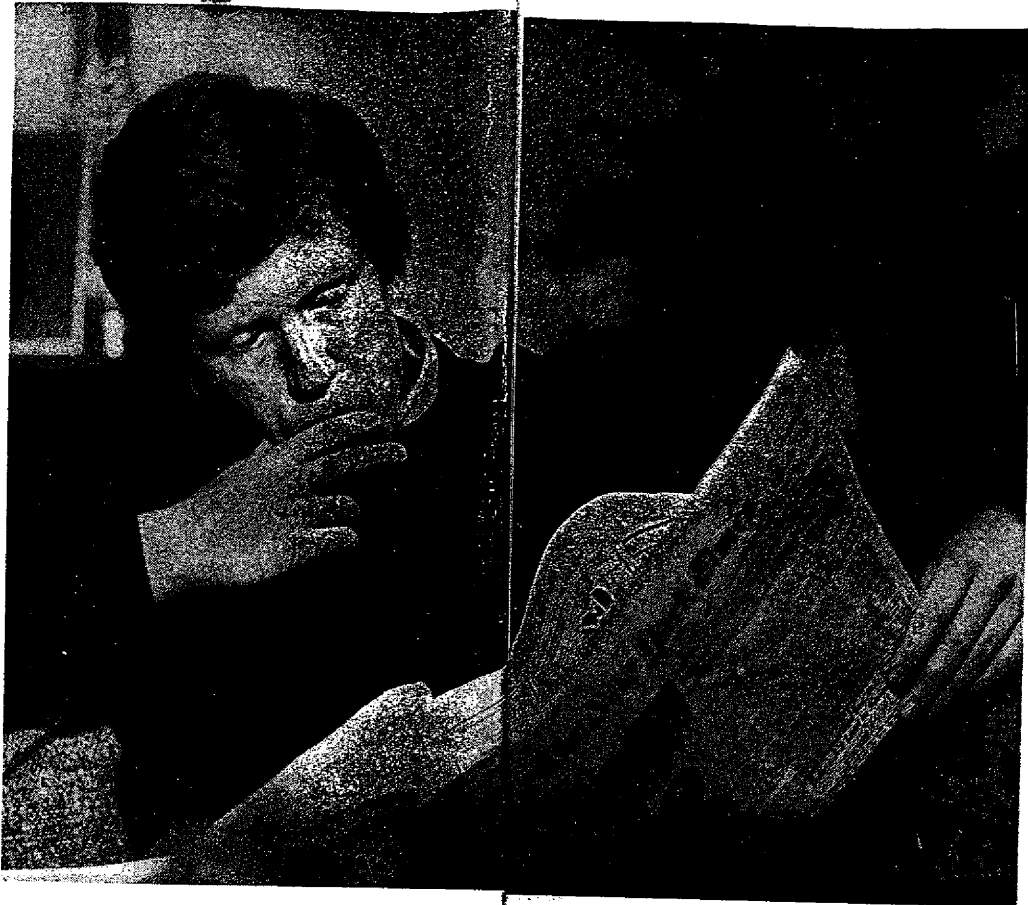


11-10-75

People



A reporter skewers the liberal press

Robert Sam Anson was only 18, a freshman at Notre Dame, when President Kennedy was killed. Two days later, he and friends cheered when they saw Kennedy's presumed assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, shot down on TV. It wasn't until last March, however, as Anson was watching a rerun of the famous Zapruder assassination film, that he began entertaining serious doubts about the Warren Commission Report.

Crucial to his reasoning, he says, was the film's evidence that the President was hit by gunfire as much as a full second before Texas Gov. John Connally. (Connally was sitting on a jump seat in the back of the presidential limousine.) This, Anson believes, discredits the commission's view that both men were struck by a single round. "There had to be at least two people firing," he maintains.

Anson, who got a \$25,000 advance for a Bantam paperback, *They've Killed the President!*, due in bookstores this month, says he tries "not to see conspiracies behind every bush." He speculates, however, that the assas-

sination could have been the work of maverick CIA operatives, or the CIA's friends in the Mafia. "I'm taking it on faith that the CIA itself did *not* do it," he says. "But we know that agency employees have gotten out of hand in the past and disobeyed not only the CIA director but the President." As for the mob, Anson observes: "We know that John and Robert Kennedy did real damage to organized crime. The Mafia had the motive, means and opportunity for murder."

Anson, 30, lives in Brooklyn Heights with his law student wife, Maggie, and two children by a previous marriage. While covering the war in Cambodia for TIME, he was captured and spent 21 days as a POW. He wrote a McGovern biography in 1972 and is now an executive producer for a New York public TV station. Characterizing himself as "apolitical," Anson expresses disappointment that "liberals of the press" haven't undertaken their own investigation of the JFK murder. "The people you'd expect to be the best on this issue have been the worst," he says. "To them, Earl Warren was a credible guy. The assassination is a complicated story, and they don't like the smell of it." □