

Excerpts From Kennedy Report

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 30— Following are excerpts from the final report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

I.

Findings in the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963:

A. Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots at President John F. Kennedy. The second and third shots he fired struck the President. The third shot he fired killed the President.

B. Scientific acoustical evidence establishes a high probability that two gunmen fired at President John F. Kennedy. Other scientific evidence does not preclude the possibility of two gunmen firing at the President. Scientific evidence negates some specific conspiracy allegations.

C. The Committee believes, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that President John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. The Committee is unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy.

D. President John F. Kennedy did not receive adequate protection. A thorough and reliable investigation into the responsibility of Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was conducted. The investigation into the possibility of conspiracy in the assassination was inadequate. The conclusions of the investigations were arrived at in good faith, but presented in a fashion that was too definitive.

Deficiency in Performance

The Secret Service was deficient in the performance of its duties.

The Secret Service possessed information that was not properly analyzed, investigated or used. Secret Service agents in the motorcade were inadequately prepared to protect the President from a sniper.

The responsibility of the Secret Service to investigate the assassination was terminated when the Federal Bureau of Investigation assumed primary investigative responsibility.

The Department of Justice failed to exercise initiative in supervising and directing the investigation by the F.B.I. of the assassination.

The F.B.I. performed with varying degrees of competency in the fulfillment of its duties.

The F.B.I. conducted a thorough and professional investigation into the responsibility of Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination.

Investigation of Conspiracy

The F.B.I. failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the President (and) was deficient in its sharing of information with other agencies and departments.

The Central Intelligence agency was deficient in its collection and sharing of

information both prior to and subsequent to the assassination.

The Warren Commission performed with varying degrees of competency in the fulfillment of its duties.

The Warren Commission conducted a thorough and professional investigation into the responsibility of Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination.

The Warren Commission failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the President. This deficiency was attributable in part to the failure of the Commission to receive all the relevant information that was in the possession of other agencies.

Good Faith Conclusions

The Warren Commission arrived at its conclusions, based on the evidence available to it, in good faith.

The Warren Commission presented the conclusions in its Report in a fashion that was too definite.

II.

Findings in the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968:

James Earl Ray fired one shot at Dr. King. The shot killed Dr. King.

The shot that killed Dr. King was fired from the bathroom window at the rear of a rooming house at 422 1/2 Main Street, Memphis.

James Earl Ray purchased the rifle used to shoot Dr. King and transported it from Birmingham, Ala. to Memphis, Tenn., where he rented a room at 422 1/2 South Main Street, and moments

after the assassination, he dropped it near 424 South Main Street.

It is highly probable that James Earl Ray stalked Dr. King for a period immediately preceding the assassination.

James Earl Ray's alibi for the time of the assassination, his story of "Raoul," and other allegedly exculpatory evidence are not worthy of belief.

Pleaded Guilty to Murder

James Earl Ray knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily pleaded guilty to the first degree murder of Dr. King.

The Committee believes, on the basis of the circumstantial evidence available to it, that there is a likelihood that James Earl Ray assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King as a result of a conspiracy.

No Federal, state or local government agency was involved in the assassination of Dr. King.

The Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation performed with varying degrees of competency and legality in the fulfillment of their duties.

The Department of Justice failed to supervise adequately the Domestic Intelligence Division of the F.B.I. In addition, the F.B.I. in the Domestic Intelligence Division's COINTELPRO campaign against Dr. King, grossly abused and exceeded its legal authority and failed to consider the possibility

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that actions threatening bodily harm to Dr. King might be encouraged by the program.

A Lack of Concern

The Department of Justice and F.B.I. failed to investigate adequately the possibility of conspiracy in the assassination. The F.B.I. manifested a lack of concern for constitutional rights in the manner in which it conducted parts of the investigation.

III.

Recommendations of the Committee

The Judiciary Committee should process for early consideration by the House legislation that would make the assassination of a Chief of State of any country, or his political equivalent, a Federal offense, if the offender is an American citizen or acts on behalf of an American citizen, or if the offender can be located in the United States.

The Judiciary Committee should process for early consideration by the House comprehensive legislation that would codify, revise and reform the Federal law of homicide, paying special attention to assassinations.

The appropriate Committees of the House should process for early consideration by the House charter legislation for the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Department of Justice should re-examine its contingency plans for the handling of assassinations and federally cognizable homicides in light of the record and findings of the Committee. Such an examination should consider the following issues:

Advances in Technology

Insuring that its response takes full advantage of inter- and intra-agency task forces and the strike force approach;

Insuring that its response takes full advantage of the advances of science and technology, and determining when it should secure independent panels of scientists to review or perform necessary scientific tasks, or secure qualified independent forensic pathologists to perform a forensic autopsy;

Insuring that its fair trial/free press guidelines, consistent with an alleged offender's right to a fair trial, allow information about the facts and circumstances surrounding an assassination promptly be made public, and promptly be corrected when erroneous information is mistakenly released;

Entering at the current time into negotiations with representatives of the media to secure voluntary agreements providing that photographs, audio tapes, television tapes and related matters, made in and around the site of assassinations, be made available to the government by consent immediately following an assassination.

The Department of Justice should contract for the examination of a film taken by Charles L. Bronson to determine its significance, if any, to the assassination of President Kennedy.