

Tel. WOrth 2-3797

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NEWS & COURIER

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A Strange Business

The new crop of books and articles about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is a curious and disturbing development.

After the killing of the President, a thorough investigation of the slaying was conducted by a special presidential commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. Serving on the panel were Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia and other Americans of unimpeachable integrity. The members of the commission found the murder to be the work of one man, Lee Harvey Oswald. All responsible segments of American opinion found acceptable the commission's exhaustive report.

Critics of the Warren Commission report are saying that more than one man must have been involved. They are suggesting that evidence was suppressed. Specifically, they are demanding that the government make public gory photographs of the slain President's body.

The U. S. government understandably has not released pictures that could only satisfy a morbid interest. It has taken this

position in consideration for the Kennedy family.

What is especially curious about the current spate of books and articles is that President Lyndon B. Johnson is the chief target of criticism. A recent article by the Washington correspondent of the London Observer suggested that Mr. Johnson wanted to get the Warren Commission report wrapped up before the 1964 election. But there also is a strong suggestion involved in these writings that more than political convenience is involved. The authors of these writings skirt around the edge of an accusation, without actually making it. We detect a veiled hint that President Kennedy's death was not simply the act of a single demented killer, but was a dark plot.

These innuendoes add a new dimension to the hatred of President Johnson that has flared among radicals since he decided to prosecute the war in Viet Nam. The assassination of President Kennedy was a terrible tragedy. It would be even more tragic if literary grave-disturbers stirred American emotions anew with unfounded suspicions.