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OFF THE SHELF

JFK Killing Is Examined in 2 Books

By Barbara Wright
Daily Star Staff Writer

Who killed John F. Kennedy? What mind conceived the crime culminating in the shots which ripped life from the young president during his motorcade tour through Dallas Nov. 22, 1963?

Few Americans would hesitate in answering that the assassin was Lee Harvey Oswald. They would cite in evidence the 26 volumes of testimony gathered by the Warren Commission during the months following the tragedy.

However, in spite of the evidence, there are persons who maintain that, even if Oswald did pull the trigger, he was only the dupe in a complex plot to murder the president.

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ONE SUCH opinion has been voiced by Thomas G. Buchanan, in his recent challenging book "Who Killed Kennedy?"

His effort provides a startling contrast to another recent volume, "Portrait of the Assassin," by House Minority Leader Rep. Gerald Ford, who was an active member of the commission.

Buchanan's book, a compilation and enlargement of a series of widely-circulated articles in Europe, was a best-seller on the Continent before its publication in the United States. Its contents provide many clues to the popular European belief that those responsible for the assassination remain at large.

Ford's book, written following publication of the Warren Commission's findings, offers condensed highlights of the events in the lives of Oswald and his

family as reviewed during the commission's proceedings.

Buchanan parallels Lincoln's assassination with Kennedy's in respect to the band of plotters involved, and further states his belief that Oswald was killed by his cohorts to silence him, should he be tempted to betray his fellow criminals.

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IN THE FINAL chapters of his book, Buchanan builds his case against big business interests whom, he says, are the true murderers of the late president—and who masterminded his death to protect their monopolistic schemes.

Buchanan's book will raise questions in the minds of many; for millions of Europeans—and Americans—are not fully satisfied with the Warren Commission's report.

The Ford book, which affords equally enlightening reading, pulls together concisely the events which built to a climax on a grim November day in Dallas.

One of the book's greatest assets is its concentrated delineation of the man who was Lee Harvey Oswald—his background, upbringing and character, and their effect on those whose lives he touched.

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IN A NARRATIVE at times quietly more dramatic and moving than any fiction, Ford details the stresses and conflicts which drove the Oswald family apart.

Perhaps because legends flourish and grow about all great men, and especially those who come to tragic, untimely ends, history will reserve doubts concerning the assassin of John F. Kennedy.

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IN SPITE of their diverging views, both books contribute to a free society's right to know the facts and question the findings of an authority constituted to discover the greatest measure of evidence of a crime against the peoples of the United States. "Who Killed Kennedy?" and "Portrait of the Assassin" are both available in the famous crimes section of the Niles Public Library.