

Warren Report Criticism Mounts

A Newsmen Looks at the

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THAT THE MOST POWERFUL MAN in the most powerful nation on earth was brought down by one punk with a \$20 gun, that the assassination of an American president, setting off a worldwide shock wave, was the act of one lonely, alienated misfit-of-a-man; that the tragedy of John F. Kennedy's death was blind and meaningless — it was incredible at first, three years ago.

And after the millions of words have been written about it and the minutest evidence has been sifted and examined, over and over and then over again, it is still not easy to accept. The human heart wants to reject it, and the mind wants to think "there must have been more to it than that—things aren't that simple."

The Kennedy charisma was such that no one in America, friend or foe of the president, was untouched by his life and death. It was such that public curiosity about Kennedy and his family is still unsated. It was such that even now, when the world has had many other dramatic events and dynamic people to comprehend in these past three years, the talk about Kennedy simply will not abate.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES — however pedantic and abstruse, or however shoddy and irresponsible — find eager readers if they promise something new, something meaningful, about John F. Kennedy and his death. Now, books and articles are crying "something wrong" with the Warren Commission report.

Let the matter rest, Texas Gov. John Connally asked last week. But the matter would not rest, and in a nation where free speech prevails and a free press flourishes, perhaps it will never rest.

Last week, the happy season of Thanksgiving was tinged with bitterness and controversy over the events of that week in 1963.

Thrones came to the Dallas street cor-

ner where Kennedy was shot and read the plaque that now will permanently mark the place. Greater throngs were drawn to Kennedy's grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

And criticism and speculation over the Warren Commission's official report of how Kennedy died mounted to a national din.

Connally Lashes Out At 'Scavengers'

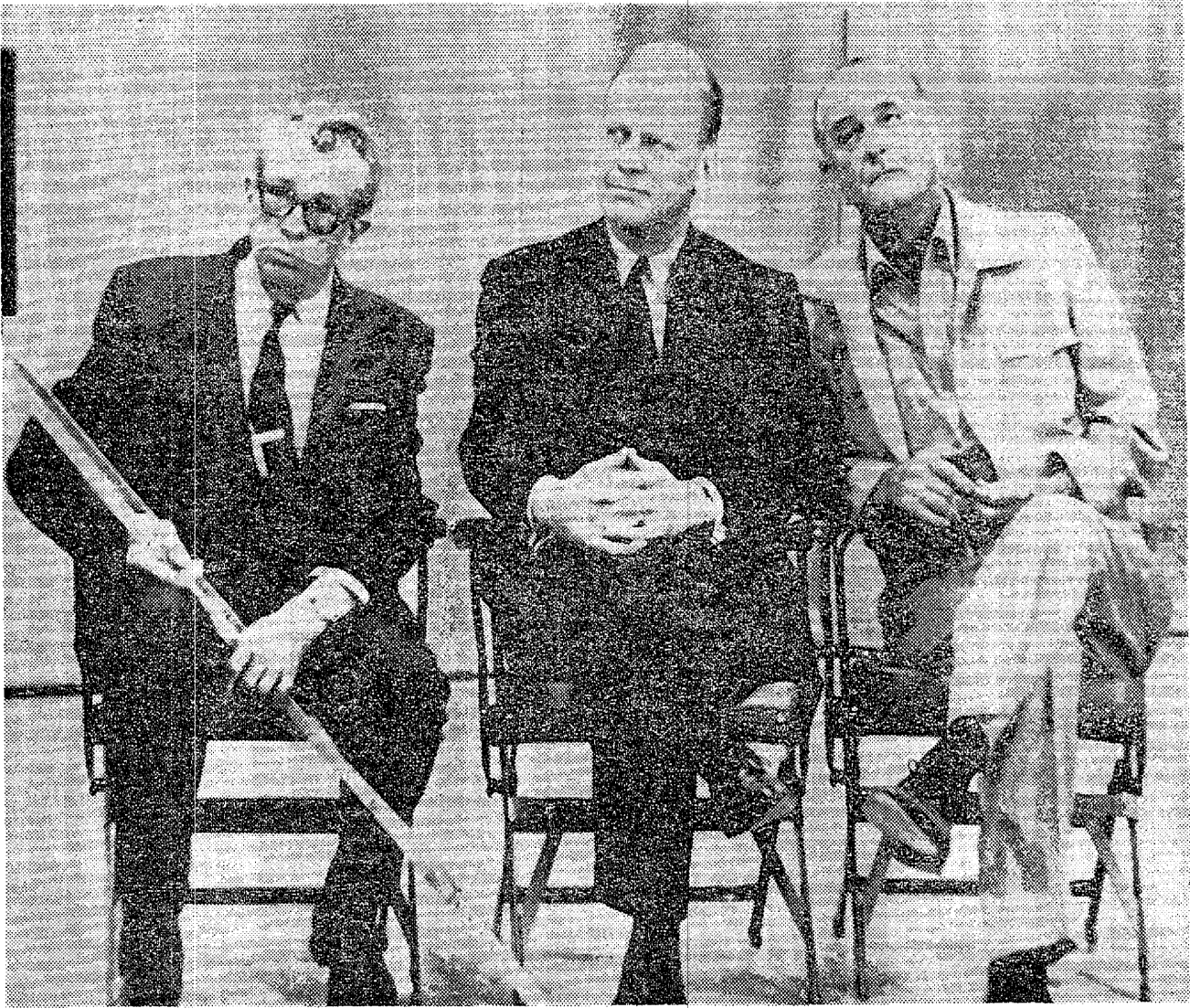
Literary and journalistic "scavengers" and "self-appointed experts" who question the Warren Commission's findings are the ones deserving of criticism and investigation, Gov. Connally said, not the "men of unquestioned integrity" who signed the Warren Report.

A new investigation of the assassination is "neither warranted, justified nor desirable," said Gov. Connally, who was wounded by a rifle shot as he rode with Kennedy in the presidential limousine that day in Dallas. Speaking sternly at a news conference last week, he found "political over-



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Texas Gov. John Connally lashes out at "journalistic scavengers" whose motives he suspects have "political overtones" in casting doubt on Warren Commission report.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

As Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., spoke at LBJ Ranch, the listeners were Senate Minority Leader

Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., left, House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, R-Mich., and the President.

tones" in current attempts to discredit the commission's findings. Though stubbornly disagreeing with the commission's conclusion that he was wounded by the same bullet which struck Kennedy in the neck, he supported the substance of the commission's findings — that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, was the assassin.

FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER also tried to put a damper on the fire, stating that "not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy" with Oswald.

Critics of the commission's conclusions, he said, have "ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others and expressed pure speculation as truth."

Some of those who doubt, or profess to doubt, the lone-assassin conclusion of the commission may be motivated by politics, as Gov. Connally suggested, or by the hope of profit and personal publicity, as others have charged. Some spin wildly

implausible theories with no apparent motive except to hear themselves talk.

But if they find a receptive audience, perhaps it is because it is human nature to be excited by a mystery — and because Americans who cared deeply about John Kennedy still search for some point, some meaning, some reason-why, in his death.

THE RECEPTIVENESS of the audience is indicated in one recent national poll. Pollster Lou Harris found 54 per cent of Americans think that the commission left questions about the assassination unanswered.

At the week's end, former Kennedy adviser Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., *Life* maga-

zine and Democratic Sen. Russell B. Long of Louisiana were among those calling for a new investigation.

At the same time, Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia, a member of the Warren Commission who bucked the other members on the final wording of the report, said he himself remained unsatisfied that all information had been available to the commission about Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union and his Cuba-related activities. But Russell nevertheless declined to join the ranks of the current critics of the report.

"You can raise questions, yes," said Russell. "The test is, can you answer them?"

Whether any new investigation, following on a cold 3-year-old trail of evidence, could indeed provide answers that would settle the arguments was the question being widely debated last week. Like the war that was fought to end all wars, the Warren investigation was the one that was to trans-

pend all other investigations and put all doubts to rest.

WITH OTHER national issues temporarily quiescent during this holiday week — congressmen scattered during their brief recess, Lyndon Johnson attending to routine business while recuperating at his Texas ranch from his recent surgery, and the other politicians mostly resting up from the November election — newspaper readers could turn their attention to some international developments.

In the United Nations, the week's concerns included a renewal of border hostilities between Israel and its Arab neighbors and some new tactical maneuvering over the possible seating of Red China in the international organization.

Security Council Censures Israel

The Security Council, after two weeks of debate, voted to censure Israel for its reprisal raid on three Jordanian villages earlier this month and then warned it would consider punitive steps if Israel repeated the attacks in violation of an armistice agreement between Israel and Jordan.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg had joined France, Russia and Great Britain in condemning the Israeli move. In its complaints this fall to the United Nations about raids in its territory by Arab terrorists, Israel had blamed Syria, not Jordan.

Meanwhile, in Jordanese Jerusalem, anti-government demonstrators demanding war on Israel were fired on by the government's Arab Legion. It was the latest in a series of riots protesting the government's reaction to the Israeli raid.

GOLDBERG, reiterating American opposition to admission of Red China to the United Nation if it means expulsion of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist China, did put the United States in support of a U.N. study that would take into account "political realities" in considering a seat for Red China.

To go even this far was a change from the position of unequivocal opposition to Red China that the United States has held throughout a 16-year U.N. deadlock on the question. But the Soviet U.N. delegate rejected the idea of the two-Chinas study and called it an American delaying maneuver.

Ambassador Nikolai Federenko pressed for an immediate invitation to the Chinese — this despite the current differences between Russia and Red China that have caused Russia to bolster its own defenses along the China border. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in talks with

U.S. officials in Washington last week, reportedly was expressing concern over China's growing nuclear arsenal and the friction between the two giant Communist nations.

IN EUROPE, while Spain moved cautiously toward a more democratic form of government, fears of a revival of Nazism were aroused by the results of two state elections in Germany.

The Nazi-tinged National Democratic party made gains in Sunday's Bavarian elections as it had done in the Hesse state elections earlier this month, and the party's officials decided on the strength of that to enter candidates in the West Berlin elections next March.

The support for the extreme rightist party was small—7.4 per cent of the state-wide vote—but enough to give it 15 of the 204 seats in the Bavarian legislature and three times its best previous showing in Bavaria.

Generalissimo Francisco Franco, for 27 years the dictator of Spain, proposed a new constitution for his nation that would gradually liberalize its political system. The parliament promptly approved it, and will submit it to a vote on Dec. 14.

THE CONSTITUTION preserves the "paper monarchy" that has existed for many years, but it separates the powers of the chief of state and the chief of government (or premier). Franco now holds the powers of both offices.

Under the new constitution, Spaniards for the first time would directly elect a fourth of the members of the Cortes, or parliament. At present, all are chosen by a complicated appointive process. Married women would be allowed to vote in parliamentary elections. The council of the realm, which would propose candidates for chief of state and premier, would have some members elected by Cortes deputies. And religious liberty would be proclaimed a legal right protected by the state.

Pretender to the empty throne is Don Juan de Borbon, son of the last Spanish king who left the country in 1931. Franco has supervised Don Juan's education and upbringing, but he has not yet made a recommendation on whether the young pretender should be named king when he reaches the required legal age of 30.

FRANCO'S MOVE was seen as an effort to insure an orderly succession when he leaves the scene. He will be 74 years old next week. His opponents, who see the political freedom offered in the new constitution as "too little, too late," began a move to encourage Spaniards to stay away from the polls in December to show disapproval of the constitution as inadequate.

Scattered clashes marked the war in

Viet Nam last week, and American forces were girding for their first major effort in the Mekong Delta. This vital "rice bowl" of South Viet Nam has for years been a stronghold of the Viet Cong, who use it as their chief recruiting center. It is the only part of the country where U.S. troops are not yet stationed in operational force.

The number of Americans killed in Viet Nam since 1961 reached 6,000 last week—including a thousand killed since early September.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara says that military needs in Viet Nam are leveling off, and over-all military manpower requirements next year will be a third less than in 1966. About 600,000 men will be drafted or enlisted in 1967.

Pentagon Announces Cut in Draft Call

In line with this, the Pentagon announced that the January draft call is being cut from 27,600 to 15,600. Draft calls from August through November have averaged 40,000 a month.

Manpower in Viet Nam will grow next year, said McNamara, but at a slower rate.

Estimates from other military sources are that 100,000 troops will be added in Viet Nam. The force at the end of this year will number about 375,000. Despite the smaller increment in 1967, logistics headaches will continue, since at least 150,000 men will complete their year of duty and be rotated.

McNamara said last week that the Defense Department will ask for a supplemental appropriation for this fiscal year to pay for the war.

NEW TALK of a possible repetition of last year's Christmas halt in bombing of North Viet Nam was countered by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, special adviser to President Johnson and former ambassador to Viet Nam.

The bombing, Gen. Taylor said, gives America "blue chips" for peace talks. "Don't pay a blue chip by giving up the bombing to get negotiations started," he

advised. The bombings, he said, have given a morale boost to the South Vietnamese and have "immobilized" significant numbers of North Vietnamese fighting men.

The cost of the war, and McNamara's estimates of the military buildup next year, are factors in a major decision which President Johnson will make during his stay in Texas—whether to ask Congress for a tax increase in January.

Mr. Johnson's economic advisers are expected to give him their estimates of federal revenues and spending by Dec. 10. Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and congressional leaders of both parties met with Mr. Johnson at the LBJ ranch to discuss next year's legislative outlook.

—DOROTHIE ERWIN



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Paul Martin, Canada's foreign secretary, in policy statement before U.N. General Assembly, urges that both Nationalist China and Peking government be given seats in United Nations.