

Warren Report Rebutted Item-by-Item in New Book

By Evelyn Irons
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NEW YORK, N.Y. — Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is being marked by a fresh onslaught on the Warren Report of 1964 that named Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone killer.

"Accessories After the Fact," by Sylvia Meagher, to be published by Bobbs-Merrill, is regarded as the best documented and most damning of any attack on the Warren Report yet. A massive book of 250,000 words, it takes up the commission's points one by one and patiently rebuts each of them by carefully culled evidence from the commission's own records.

Indexed Report

Mrs. Meagher, an executive of the World Health Organization in New York, compiled and published last year the only index that exists on the 26 volumes of hearings and exhibits that appeared two months after the commission's report itself.

"Oswald was 95 per cent innocent," Mrs. Meagher told me. "The report found him guilty. But the hearings and exhibits, instead of corroborating that verdict, create gravest doubts of his complicity in any of the crimes of which he was accused."

She denounced the members of the Warren Commission and Chief Justice Earl Warren himself for "manipulating the evidence" contained in their own documents to back up their presumption that there was no conspiracy and that Oswald acted alone.

She said the report suppressed findings favorable to Oswald, overlooked testimony from crucial interviews and glossed over inconvenient facts.

In her book, Mrs. Meagher says: "The commission's bla-

tant bias for and against witnesses and its double standard of judging credibility are beyond belief. Marina Oswald's testimony is treated as impeccable, despite her poor showing under the sole cross-examination to which she was subjected. Her unsupported statement that Oswald took a potshot at the rightist General Edwin Walker was accepted without question."

There is no indication in the vast collection of documentation, Mrs. Meagher maintains, that the commission at any time seriously considered the possibility that Oswald was not guilty, or that he had not acted alone.

I asked Edward Jay Epstein, whose book "Inquest" last year exploded international controversy over the Warren Report, what he thought was the most significant exposure made in Mrs. Meagher's book. (He is reviewing it in the Nov. 26 issue of the Sunday book supplement Book World.) He answered:

"Mrs. Meagher found 27 errors by the commission in the area of the autopsy alone, which occupies only six or seven pages of the report. This is a terrible indictment. It exposes the commission as using intuition to reach conclusions instead of scientific or judicial methods."

Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, now professor of humanities at New York University, thought that the book proves beyond doubt that there must be a fresh and unbiased investigation into the death of President Kennedy, and that "President Kennedy's two senator brothers should take the lead in setting it up."