

# Many Small Points

POST  
Houston, Texas

**ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT**, by Sylvia Meagher, 477 pp. Indianapolis: Bobbs - Merrill. \$8.50.

Besides the Vietnam War, the most controversial issue in America today is the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy. Book after book has slammed into the conclusions of the Report with no apparent effect. The issue will probably never be officially reopened. The committee members will probably never hint at their own prejudices or the massive irregularities of the Report. But still the books will come — particularly around each November 22.

This book is the most complete, the most methodical review of the evidence so far. Sylvia Meagher, who has written many articles on the Warren Commission findings, is familiar not only with the Report, as many people are, but also with the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits. She recently published a detailed Index to these massive papers.

**MISS MEAGHER MAKES** no contentions in this book. She just systematically questions everything and everybody that was used in order to arrive at the conclusion that Oswald was the sole killer. The overwhelming objective evidence points out that Oswald may not have owned the pertinent rifle, that he was not on the sixth floor at the time of the assassination, that he could not have fired the three bullets so accurately in only 5½ seconds, and that, as a dedicated left-winger, he had absolutely no motive to kill Kennedy. It is still unresolved why the Dallas Police kept no record of their interrogation of Oswald, why Ruby (who loved the President so deeply that he did not watch his motorcade) should kill Oswald, the peculiar handling of the affair by all the law enforcement agencies involved (the FBI was permitted to investigate charges against itself),

and the subsequent unexplained deaths of 17 witnesses in a three year period.

**MOST OF THE** evidence against Oswald comes from the testimony of his wife. Miss Meagher rightly points out that Marina's many revisions (she admitted at one time to the Commission that she had not told the truth to federal agents) make her totally untrustworthy.

Several relatively unknown recent discoveries are mentioned in this book that can only confirm the belief of many Americans in a conspiracy. One is that the Miami Police Department recently released a tape recorded conversation with an organizer for a segregationist political party made two weeks before the assassination. He said Kennedy would be shot soon with a high-powered rifle from an office building, and that the gun would be disassembled, taken into the building, assembled, and then used for murder. "They will pick up somebody within hours afterwards just to throw the public off."

**LIKE ALL** the other books on the Report, this gets into such small points that one is tempted to consider them totally unimportant. But Miss Meagher manages skilfully to build a whole pyramid of apparently trivial information into a meaningful rebuttal of the official conclusions. The comprehensive footnotes further explain occasional obscure points. Many testimonies are here from the actual hearings. And, in the last section, she gives us an excellent account of the evolution of the news media from acceptance of the Report to demands that the hearings be reopened.

This is a clear, careful evaluation filled with Miss Meagher's incisive comments supported by her massive research. "Nothing less than strict factual accuracy and absolute moral integrity must be deemed permissible, if justice is, indeed, to be served."

JAY BAIL