

## Third Wave on Dallas

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No sooner had President Kennedy been shot and killed in Dallas than a number of persons throughout the country began to gather material on the circumstances and the personalities involved.

Before the Warren Commission made its report, books had appeared challenging what later proved to be the official interpretation of the facts; namely, that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, was the assassin.

Thomas Buchanan's was the first, I believe — an emotional document by an ex-patriate.

In the second wave were books by Lane, Weisberg and Epstein, each an analysis of the assassination, some more careful than others, some frankly partisan. Now comes the third wave. These are more dispassionate, less lawyers' briefs than determined analyses.

"Six Seconds in Dallas," by Josiah Thompson (Bernard Geis Associates, \$8.95), seeks to show that three gunmen murdered the President and that Oswald was probably not one of them.

"Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report," by Sylvia Meagher (Bobbs-Merrill, \$8.50), is the less publicized, but to my mind the superior book.

She is not so set on proving a thesis (except that the Warren Commission was off the beam) as she is on exposing the inconsistencies between the report and the facts, and in presenting new evidence.

What is most astonishing is the amount of work the dissenters have done on the

case, gathering new photographs, interviewing witnesses, measuring documents, scrutinizing films. Thompson, a professor of philosophy at Haverford College, has based a good deal of his case on the famous Zapruder motion pictures now owned by Life Magazine. He is somewhat hampered in the presentation of his case by the refusal of Life Magazine to grant republication rights.

But if the American public ever demands a second, thorough and disinterested examination of the case, it will be in great part because of the material gathered and presented by Miss Meagher.

Meanwhile, the forthcoming trial in New Orleans of Clay Shaw overshadows all the amateur analyses of the historic event because Dist. Atty. Garrison might well introduce testimony that will alter all previous hypotheses.

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