

The
BOOKSHELF

ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT—The Warren Commission, The Authorities & The Report—by Sylvia Meagher. 477 pages. \$8.50. Bobbs-Merrill.

My interest in the Warren Commission Report was first aroused when in the summer of 1966, I read a review by Richard N. Goodwin, a former Assistant to President Kennedy, of Edward J. Epstein's book, "Inquest." This book had been done as a master's thesis at Cornell and seemed to be free of the sensationalism of books before and after on the subject.

After some substantial probing, I introduced the Resolution asking for a further investigation of the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Report, in order to see if a Congressional investigation was necessary. My resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives on September 28, 1966, just two years after the Warren Commission Report was made public. I modeled it on the approach of the Congressional investigations of the Pearl Harbor disaster of December 7, 1941.

I was then deluged with inquiries and interviews as the first public official to dare to raise the question.

When I first became interested in the Warren Commission Report and its obvious failures, I was perturbed that I might do a poor job with reference to the known facts, and this was of increasing concern to me as I took part in the public discussions.

Then I met Sylvia Meagher. On the subject of the Warren Report, Sylvia Meagher could replace a computer—instead of pushing a button you called Sylvia and you got your answer, with cross references to what was available in the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits and to what had been written in the field.

It was she who arranged for me to see Life Magazine's Zapruder Film, which buttressed by my own rejection of the Single Bullet Theory.

A Villager, an employee of the United Nations, Sylvia Meagher was more than just an assassination buff. She really studied the subject.

She, on her own, prepared the Index to the Hearings and Exhibits in the 26 volumes, for which the Commission had merely lumped all the material together.

What was originally triumphantly referred to as a masterful study of the killing near the Texas School Book Depository, is shown in "Accessories After the Fact" to be but a cursory examination.

To cite only one instance, it is admitted by Arlen Specter, a chief Commission investigator, that the Commission did not see the X-rays and photographs of the autopsy of the late President Kennedy. How then can one place reliance on the Single Bullet Theory when the best evidence to back it up is unavailable. I, along with outstanding pathologists, have been denied an opportunity to view these items reposing in the archives of the United States.

While I decry all allegations of a conspiracy on the part of members of the Commission, we cannot avoid the main issue of whether the Warren Report can be accepted as anything but a first draft.

Whether you agree with Sylvia Meagher's conclusions or not, you know that she has thoroughly researched the problem, and this is borne out by her careful analysis of all the known facts and some that have been pushed under the rug.

"Accessories After the Fact" is overwhelming. In minute detail, we retrace all of the factors in the

assassination, the area involved, the characters, what the Warren Report found and where they overlooked the obvious.

With the voluminous literature now available on this subject for more than a five foot shelf, there is no doubt that the first book to be read in order to understand the points all the others are making, is Sylvia Meagher's book.

Whether one book or a parade of them can change our outlook, is a good question. My recent poll of the 17th District constituents had the following question under the heading of the "Warren Commission": Do you favor additional investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy? 38% says "yes," 53% said "no" and 9% did not answer that question.

It is understandable that people would like to forget, but unless we too want to be "Accessories After the Fact," a fair and impartial investigation must be commenced to analyze all that we now know vis-a-vis the conclusions of the Warren Report, so we can try to lay the matter to rest. When that time comes, Sylvia Meagher's book will be the cornerstone in the mausoleum.

Rep. Theodore R. Kupferman