Author Keeps Issue Alive

Book Questions Warren Report

By ED WIATER

ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report. *By Sylvia Meagher. Bobbs-Merrill. 464 pp. $8.50.*

MAKING HEADLINES out of the President John F. Kennedy assassination has been from the start a very profitable operation, and supporters of the Warren Commission Report on the murder of the President have labeled said critics as scavengers.

However, in view of the strong arguments unearthed by recent scholars, such labeling may be regarded by some as a convenient way of sweeping the dirt under the rug.

The truth of the matter is that now, four years after the deed, the Warren Report is being assailed ever more effectively observers who ask questions which cry for answers from the disbanded commission.

THESE ARE NOT questions raised by radical, highly emotional individuals. These are questions raised by people who have taken time to research the report and give professional appraisals of its contents.

Sylvia Meagher, it is argued, knows every item that went into the Warren Report. Reading her latest work, it becomes quite apparent she knows quite a few facts that didn't go into the report, as well.

Mrs. Meagher slashes the Warren Report to bits and her arguments and findings and are documented. Her foot notes are complete.

MANY of Mrs. Meagher's arguments are old. They have to be because they were pertinent to the case four years ago, and still are today. However, there is a host of new material.

A sample of her revelations involves the report, which states that Jack Dougherty saw Lee Harvey Oswald enter the Book Depository, the Dallas building that supposedly provided the sniper's roost, "but he does not remember that Oswald had anything in his hands as he entered the door."

Actually, here is what Dougherty said when questioned by the commission's assistant counsel, Joseph A. Ball.

Dougherty: I'll put it this way; I didn't see anything in his hands at the time.

Ball: In other words, your memory is definite on this, is it?

Dougherty: Yes, sir.

Ball: In other words, you would say positively he had nothing in his hands?

Doughtery: I would say that — yes, sir.

DOUGHERTY is quite explicit on the point.

It's been quite obvious to this reviewer, after reading some of the other detailed works on the Warren Commission, that its present case would have been cut to ribbons had the commission allowed a devil's advocate to sit at the hearings and challenge the evidence as it appeared.

The commission defends itself on grounds that it was not assembled to try anyone. Yet, Oswald, alone, has been named as the assassin.

Mrs. Meagher's work is monumental. Of all the books written on the subject, this one comes closest to being the reference book on the subject.

It is harder yet to understand how defenders of the commission and its report can in good conscience keep quiet — not answer directly such books as Mrs. Meagher's and Josiah Thompson's equally challenging "Six Seconds in Dallas."