

THE CRITICAL COMMUNITY

September 6, 1978

Narration by G. Robert Blakey

The Warren Commission, for the most part, conducted its investigation in executive session, just as this Committee has. But unlike this Committee is doing today, the Warren Commission did not hold extensive public hearings. It published an account of its findings and how they were arrived at in a report, with twenty-six volumes of back-up material. The Commission then went out of existence, and it has remained officially silent since.

In the fourteen years that have followed, the investigation of the Kennedy assassination has become the subject of literally thousands of words of critical commentary. No official response has been forthcoming, since the Commission was no longer in being. For these reasons as much as any, the American public has found it difficult to credit the conclusions of the Commission. Indeed, the Select Committee probably owes its very existence to the process by which critics raised issues by questioning the work of the Commission.

The critical community is composed of writers and researchers, who for years have been examining the Warren

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Commission's work, perceiving some important issues that either were not addressed or were resolved inadequately. Some of the critics have acted ^{reasonably &} responsibly, motivated by an honest desire to find facts; others seem to have been impelled by a desire to capitalize on a sensational event, the murder of a President.

The Select Committee has attempted to derive maximum benefit from the work of all of the critics. In September 1977, several of them were invited to a "conference" in Washington to present to the Committee their opinions of what issues should be addressed in the investigation. The Committee profited greatly from their views.

Robert Groden, a photo-optical technician, has been one of the most active Kennedy assassination researchers. For the past thirteen years, he has been analyzing the photographic evidence, and the results of his study played no small part in convincing many Members of the Congress that the Kennedy case should be reopened.

Since the Committee was established, Groden has served as a consultant to it, advising the Committee on issues raised by the photographic evidence.

Groden, 32, has given numerous lectures on his photo analysis, and his enhanced version of the Zapruder film has been widely shown publicly, including on the ABC Network. He is the author of JFK: The Case for Conspiracy. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and two children.



Mr. Groden is in a unique position to present to the Committee the state of the knowledge of the critical community prior to the work of the Committee and to articulate for it and the American people the crucial issues raised by the critical community, particularly as they were rooted in the photos available of the assassination.

Mr. Chairman, it would be appropriate now to call Mr. Groden.