

tion of the Warren Report in the anticipation that it would shed light on this affair had to resign themselves to waiting longer, until the publication of the Hearings and Exhibits; for illumination. It was hard to understand why the rumors generated by Kline and Pugh were not debunked by the Commission in Appendix XII of the Report, as was, for example, the rumor that a detachment of the U.S. Army "began to rehearse for the funeral more than a week before the assassination." (WR 668) The rumor that Oswald was being watched at the request of "an official agency in Washington" seemed no less consequential than the funeral rehearsal.

The impression that the Commission wished to avoid confronting the issue was borne out when the Hearings and Exhibits finally became available. Mr. Kline's affidavit (15H 640) states tersely:

I do not recall being interviewed by Harold Feldman [sic] who I am informed represented the *New York Post*. . . . With respect to Lee Harvey Oswald, I have no personal knowledge whatsoever of any check made on him by the United States Public Health Service, Laredo, Texas, either upon his entry into or exit from Mexico in 1963. I have no personal knowledge whatsoever that any agency of the United States Government maintained a surveillance of Oswald's movements, and I have never indicated to the contrary to any news reporters. (15H 640)

Pugh's affidavit (15H 640-641) follows along the same lines. He "did not recall" being interviewed by the *New York Post*, and "in any event" all information he had given to reporters had been supplied by his assistant, Kline, and did not derive from personal knowledge.

Kline's affidavit was executed on July 31, 1964; Pugh's, on August 26, 1964. If there are any intermediate reports, interviews, or documents, they are not evident in the Exhibits.

The affidavits do not dispose of the matter. They repudiate the story in the *New York Post* (attributing it erroneously to Harold Feldman, who merely referred to the story in the *Post* in an article in *The Nation*),⁹ but the reporter who wrote the story was not questioned and we do not know whether, if he were questioned, he would retract, modify, or maintain it. The belated *pro forma* disclaimers from Pugh and Kline, his alleged sources, cannot by themselves resolve the conflict. And what about the story in the *New York Herald-Tribune*? That newspaper is not mentioned in the affidavits. Since the *Herald Tribune* story of November 26, 1963 remains unchallenged, may we regard it as accurate?

The evidence suggests that there may be much more to this affair beneath the surface, but that it may be 75 years before it is excavated. It brings to mind a passage from the testimony of Revilo Oliver, professor of classical philology at the University of Illinois and student of the assassination, in colloquy with Counsel Albert Jenner on September 9, 1964.

Oliver: The exact quotation is, "I do not know whether Oswald was paid by the CIA but I hear there was testimony before the Warren Commission that he was."

⁹ "Oswald and the FBI," *The Nation*, January 27, 1964, pp. 86-89.