

Some Questions That Linger On

By JOHN McMULLAN

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WASHINGTON — The massive Warren Commission report is moving toward its own resting place in history on the nation's bookshelves, leaving minor mysteries scattered along the way.

Despite the commission's monumental work, its very attempt at completeness in investigating President John F. Kennedy's assassination leaves a wealth of material to puzzle over.

The reader who pays \$76 for the set of exhibits and testimony released this week will find evidence to back up every conclusion the commission reached.

But he also will be able to pick and choose among views that disagree with the commission's unanimous findings that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone killer, who in turn was slain by another lone agent, nightclub owner Jack Ruby. He may be left wondering:

—**COULD** a former Dallas newsman really have been mistaken in reporting that he saw Jack Ruby, an old acquaintance, at the Dallas hospital where Kennedy lay dying? Ruby denies being there, but Seth Kantor, of Scripps-Howard newspapers, even recalls Ruby asking: "Should I close my places for the next three nights, do you think?"

— Was the full story told about Russian-born George S. De Mohrenschildt, the only known link between the Kennedy and Oswald families? The commission took 118 pages of testimony from De Mohrenschildt who complained that President Francois Duvalier of Haiti had received a letter—

perhaps from the FBI—suggesting that "I am a Polish Communist and a member of an international band." The commission, however, concluded there was no evidence to show that De Mohrenschildt or his wife Jean ever was disloyal to the United States in any way.

—Why did the State Department lose in its files a "lookout card" that might have resulted in Oswald's being denied permission to return from Russia?

—Who charged a phone call to Havana, Cuba, in April, 1962, to the business telephone of Jack Ruby's brother, Earl?

—Which version of a secret informant's report about Oswald's visit to the Cuban embassy in Mexico City should be believed? The informant, whose identity was withheld to protect his value to the CIA, first said he saw Oswald receive a substantial sum of money in the Cuban embassy. He later confessed it was all a lie. Given a polygraph test, the informant was shown to have lied, the commission reported, but failed to say when or about what.

LOOSE ENDS like these keep popping up, and it becomes obvious that no amount of testimony will ever set the mind completely at rest.

Hearsay testimony that Oswald was seen driving Ruby's car in Dallas for some two weeks is never successfully pinned down by Chief Justice Earl Warren and his assiduous probers. The best rebuttal offered comes from Mrs. Ruth Paine, at whose home Marina Oswald and her children were staying in suburban Dallas. Mrs. Paine testified that Oswald couldn't drive and she planned to teach him.

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