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There seems to be much talk about the Dallas Police Department. Various persons have said that it "needs an over-hauling," that everyone from Chief Curry to Homicide Captain Will Fritz should resign. On the other hand, the Mayor of Dallas and others have commended the Police Department. One official said that should the Chief of Police hand in his resignation, it should not be accepted. • Well, is the Dallas Police Department lax or isn't it? When it comes to events of this scope, no one of us in this entire land can be completely impartial. I'm sure you all have your opinions and these are mine, regarding the Dallas police:

For one thing, neither the Dallas Police Department nor any other municipal police department is completely responsible for the protection of the President or the internal security of the nation. These are the prime responsibilities of the Secret Service and the FBI. This is the way it is in Washington and this is the way it is in Dallas. (In Washington, as a matter of fact, the Metropolitan Police are not responsible even for the protection of the White House and its environs. This is handled by special White House police.)

This is not to say that a police department is not expected to do everything humanly possible to protect the President. It is. The FBI, according to Dallas Police Chief Curry, talked to Lee Harvey Oswald before the President's visit. Either the FBI decided that Oswald was harmless or it simply failed to inform the Dallas police about him; or the fact that he worked at a building on the parade route. Every other questionable character that the FBI mentioned to the Dallas Police was staked-out carefully, the Dallas Police Chief said. People are quick to point out that Adlai Stevenson was roughed up by a Dallas crowd. Some say that the Dallas Police failed to protect him.

But, according to our sources in Dallas, Adlai Stevenson was so baffled by the reaction of the crowd in Dallas during his visit, that, over police objections, he went beyond their protective ranks and attempted to reason with what actually was an unruly mob. Was it the fault of the police or of Mr. Stevenson that he was assaulted? • After the President was shot, it was not the Secret Service nor the FBI that captured the man to whom all evidence points as the killer. It was the Dallas Police and one Dallas policeman was killed doing it. Another one might have been killed, but the presumed assassin's gun jammed.

- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach ✓
- Evans ✓
- Gale ✓
- Rosen ✓
- Sullivan ✓
- Tavel ✓
- Trotter _____
- Tele Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
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- People's World _____
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Then, however, Oswald was killed in the basement of the police garage, despite elaborate precautions taken to prevent that. He was killed by a man who "hung around" the police station and was generally accepted by police and the press alike as "all right." Darn near every police station in America has people like that. So do most newspapers. These people just are there; they like to be where the action is; they'll go for coffee, they'll run errands. Nobody knows who they are; everyone thinks somebody else knows. It was inexcusable that Jack Ruby was in the police garage at that critical time, but there he was and it could happen in almost any police station at any time.

But aside from the aspects offered above, one other thing made it easier for Mr. Ruby to be on the scene; the press and TV. Remember, the Dallas police, much as Dallas itself, had a tremendous guilt feeling about the events of the preceding Friday. The police could have spirited Oswald to the city jail at 4 a. m., without telling anyone. But the police didn't want to offend the press. "The American people have a right to see this killer," more than one reporter reminded police. So there was the garage, filled with police, filled with reporters and cameramen, many of them complete strangers (out-of-town press) to the local authorities.

The unknown reporters were "all right," the strange cameramen were "all right," the anonymous TV technicians were "all right." So why shouldn't Jack Ruby, who had been hanging around for years, be "all right"? • This is not the first time that the press has contributed its full share to the confusion of a major event. • Jack Ruby, too, should not have gotten into the garage. The Dallas Police Department WAS lax in allowing him to do so. • But before we demand that it be "over-hauled," for "mistake after mistake," perhaps we should think again and ~~consult~~ the facts.