

Mr. Warren on Security

Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination, has said some rather astounding things in the last few days.

First—after having listened to the opening testimony of Mrs. Marina Oswald, Russian-born widow of the accused assassin—Mr. Warren has declared that "security" considerations may make it necessary to suppress some of the commission's findings during the lifetime of most of us.

Second, as an after-thought, the Chief Justice has sought to clarify and tone down this startling and highly disturbing statement by describing it as a comment made a bit facetiously but also factually—a comment based on certain amorphous possibilities involved in Oswald's trips to Russia and Mexico. Hence, in Mr. Warren's words, it may be necessary to withhold some items of information, although the inquiry thus far has disclosed no such items.

We think the Chief Justice has made a great mistake in giving voice to these confusing and self-contradictory remarks. They are remarks that serve only to sow seeds of doubt and suspicion in support of the brooding and mischievous people, at home and abroad, who still believe that the Kennedy tragedy was not the work of one obscure little man with a warped brain, a gun and a senseless desire to kill the President of the United States.

These people—and perhaps there are many more of them overseas than in the United States—may have been conditioned by mystery stories and novels of diplomatic intrigue. But they hold to the theory that the Kennedy assassination can be explained only in terms of some kind of national or international plot involving sinister characters in very high places. This is nonsense, of course, but it still grips a lot of minds.

It is because of this background that Mr. Warren's remarks seem especially unfortunate. What conceivable kind of "security" would require his commission to play the role of censor? And how could any such action be squared with President Johnson's directive instructing the commission "to satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as can be discovered, and to report its findings and conclusions to him, to the American people and to the world?"

This is a question of the highest importance. No veil should be drawn over any aspect of it unless the whole commission, in concert with Congress and the White House, agree that there are facts here and there that need to be kept covered.

Meanwhile, or so it seems to us, the chairman of the commission would do well not to issue statements that he himself has been obliged to describe, on second thought, as a mixture of facetiousness and fact.

- Helms
  - Mohr
  - Casper
  - Callahan
  - Conrad
  - DeLoach
  - Evans
  - Gale
  - Rosen
  - Sullivan
  - Tavel
  - Trotter
  - Tele Room
  - Holmes
  - Gandy
- DE LOACH  
M. J. [unclear]  
B. [unclear]

all too true!

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- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Date \_\_\_\_\_

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