

# **i n q u i r y**

## **PROFESSOR HUGH TREVOR-ROPER ASSAILS WARREN REPORT**

Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, world-renowned historian and Professor of Modern History at Oxford, has assailed the Warren Commission Report as 'suspect' and 'slovenly.' In a 3500-word article which appeared in the December 13 London Sunday Times, Prof. Trevor-Roper raised several points of evidence which he charged demonstrate that the Commission abandoned any 'independent judgment' in favor of 'selective standards of confidence, uncritical acceptance (or rejection) of evidence, and reluctance to ask essential questions.'

The professor's article concentrates on a number of points 'which, to me, render the whole report suspect.' They are:

- 1) How was Oswald's description known by Officer Tippit when his alleged encounter with Oswald took place before any evidence had been found linking Oswald to the assassination?
- 2) Oswald was warned by the Dallas police during his interrogation that any statement which he made could be used in evidence against him yet the Report states that no notes or stenographic or tape recordings were made during the 12 hours of questioning. Professor Trevor-Roper comments: 'This, I do not hesitate to say, cannot possibly be true. How could any statement made by Oswald be used against him if his statements were unrecorded?'
- 3) The medical evidence, especially the autopsy report, is crucial in determining whether any of the shots struck the President from the front, as the doctors at Parkland Hospital had believed. Yet Dr. J. J. Humes, the chief pathologist performing the autopsy upon President Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital, signed an affidavit stating that he had burned his original notes and kept no copy. Professor Trevor-Roper's article points out, 'Only the official autopsy, compiled (as is clearly stated) with the aid of police evidence, survives -- and the Commission, once again, has accepted this evidence without asking why, or on whose authority, the original notes were destroyed.'
- 4) The Warren Commission claims that the paper bag which was allegedly used by Oswald to carry the rifle into the Book Depository Building, was 'discoloured during various laboratory experiments,' and so a replica

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**A newsletter prepared by the CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY and devoted to an independent and continuing investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.**

**156 Fifth Avenue - Room 421 New York, N.Y. YU 9-6850**

## MOST AMERICANS STILL NOT CONVINCED

A public opinion poll taken after the issuance of the Warren Report reveals that less than half the American people believe that the full story of the assassination was told by the Commission.

Results of the Harris Poll taken in early October were:

Question: *From what you have read or heard, do you feel the full story is in the Warren Commission Report? Or do you think there are still a lot of unanswered questions about who killed President John Kennedy and how it was done?*

### TOTAL PUBLIC

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Full story is in report    | 45% |
| Still unanswered questions | 45% |
| Not sure                   | 10% |

This poll was taken after every major newspaper, magazine, radio and TV program in the nation had welcomed the Warren Report as ending all doubts about the assassination.

A previous poll, taken in August by the Randi program on radio station WOR in New York, was unique in that it offered the public a chance to express their opinions after having heard a presentation of both defense and prosecution cases. At the end of a five-hour debate on the assassination between Mark Lane and three opposing attorneys who took the position that Oswald was the lone assassin, the public was invited to send in postcards judging Oswald guilty or innocent. The outcome of that poll, as tabulated by radio station WOR, was:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Oswald guilty   | 44  |
| Oswald innocent | 617 |

## W. C. BURIES EVIDENCE FOR 75 YEARS

The Warren Commission is not going to make public all the information gathered during its investigation. Much of its evidence has been locked up for 75 years in the National Archives.

In an article from Washington on December 18, Dom Bonafede of the New York Herald Tribune disclosed that,

*'Evidence and investigating reports used by the Warren Commission have been stored in a special vault in the National Archives Building and will remain inaccessible to the public for 75 years. As a result, much of what was said off the record by some of the 552 witnesses during the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination 'may not be known in our lifetime.'*

The deputy archivist in charge of the documents explained that the 75-year period was designed to protect 'innocent persons... such as Oswald's two infant daughters.'

One would think that after Oswald's arrest, immediate presumption of guilt by the news media, execution in the basement of the Dallas jail, and post-mortem conviction by the Warren Commission without trial or defense, further protection would be unnecessary.

## ROBERT RUARK ON THE BALLISTICS OF THE WARREN REPORT

*(From the N.Y. World-Telegram, 10/9/64)*

I am sitting in my flat here with a professional hunter, Walter Johnson of Mozambique... We are talking about the shooting of President Kennedy in terms of what we both know about rifles. Walter shot his first elephant when he was nine years old. I have been shooting high-powered rifles, with and without scopes, for most of my life.

...What Walter and I cannot understand, among other findings of the Warren Report, is how a bullet fired from behind could tear the back of President Kennedy's head off.

I am speaking only as a semi-professional white hunter, but Walter is all pro, and he agrees with me.

The other day we had a sick buffalo on our hands and we were shooting as fast as we could work the bolt. Neither one of us was able to fire three shots in under eight seconds.

Walter was shooting faster than I was, but he was using open sights, which raises another point. Somebody in the Warren Report mentioned that 'the scope made fast shooting possible.'

This is utter nonsense. Every time you fire a scoped rifle the blast knocks your eye out of the scope, and you have to rediscover the target. There is also something called 'parallax' which blurs a scope, making the target disappear if your eye isn't rightly adjusted to the lenses.

There was some comment that the scope had a slight error in sighting which made a leadoff angle unnecessary. You would have to know the exact span of right-or-left throwing in order

to compensate, and the same would apply to high or low. I doubt very much if Lee Oswald bore-sighted his rifle and then adjusted the scope in order to eliminate the basic necessity of shooting at moving targets—the leadoff angle.

According to reports, Mr. Kennedy was hit in the back, a heart shot, as well as being hit in the neck, the bullet passing through and coming out of the throat. Another bullet blew off the back of his head.

As a rifleman I do not understand the combination of angles. A shot fired on high goes down. A shot fired on the level goes straight in. A shot fired from below travels up. Oswald, shooting from his lofty vantage, would have had to hit Kennedy high in the head to shove the bullet through his throat. To hit him in the back, at that range and elevation, is impossible.

A bullet going in the back of the neck and coming out of the throat would almost have to be fired on a dead level, or from a very slight slant.

Walter Johnson and I have read the report scrupulously, several times, and the ballistic end of it makes no sense.

#### MARK LANE SPEAKING IN EUROPE

Attorney Mark Lane, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, is presently in Europe speaking on the subject of the assassination and the Warren Commission Report. He spent two weeks lecturing at major English and Scottish universities, after which he addressed audiences in Vienna, Frankfort and Brussels.

At a press conference in Copenhagen, Mr. Lane said he had studied the Warren Commission report and found it "a fraudulent document that does not accurately reflect the testimony before the commission."

Several of Europe's best-known publications have set up further meetings on the continent. Mr. Lane is expected to return to the United States in mid-January, when he will complete a book he has been writing on the assassination.

## FUNDS NEEDED

Donations are sorely needed in order for the Citizens' Committee to continue its work of investigating the circumstances of the Kennedy assassination. Please send your check or money order to:

Citizens' Committee of Inquiry  
156 Fifth Avenue Room 421  
New York, N. Y. 10010

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bag was manufactured under police orders for 'valid identification by witnesses.' 'In other words,' says Prof. Trevor-Roper, 'the police destroyed the real evidence and substituted their own fabrication.'

5) Professor Trevor-Roper concludes that 'to complete this record of suppression and destruction, there is the destruction of the most important living witness, Oswald himself.' How did Jack Ruby enter the basement where he murdered Oswald? Was it through the negligence or the connivance of the police? Three policemen who said Ruby told them he had entered the building by the Main Street ramp did not come forward with this information for some days. In the meantime, Ruby was being interrogated in vain on this point. Trevor-Roper sums up: 'Why, or in what circumstances, Ruby made this interesting admission, and why the three policemen did not pass it on for several days, are clearly important questions. But the Commission evidently did not ask them.'

Professor Trevor-Roper is a widely-recognized authority on contemporary world affairs and has been Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford University since 1957. He is the author of 'The Last Days of Hitler' and 'The Gentry, 1540-1640,' among other works. He is a member of the British 'Who Killed Kennedy?' Committee, headed by Bertrand Russell and endorsed by many of Britain's leading intellectuals.

## ONE MURDER, ONE 'SUICIDE'

There have been two more suspicious deaths of persons connected with the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath.

One of Jack Ruby's strippers, Teresa Norton, was found shot through the head last August in a Houston motel. The coroner's verdict was 'suicide.' She is the same person who made headlines last spring when she was arrested at the Ruby trial for carrying a pistol into the courtroom in her purse.

A few weeks after Miss Norton's death, police found the body of Jim Koethe, Dallas Times-Herald reporter. He had been strangled to death in his room some two days earlier. Koethe was the first person to enter Jack Ruby's apartment after the murder of Oswald.

## LITERATURE

The following literature is available from the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry. Please include 10¢ for postage and handling with all mail orders.

- 16 Questions on the Assassination  
(Bertrand Russell).....15¢
- Rebuttal to Warren Report  
(Mark Lane).....15¢
- Defense Brief for Oswald  
(Mark Lane).....10¢
- The Warren Report - ?  
(Vincent Salandria, Dave Dellinger)....50¢
- Gaps in the Warren Commission Report  
(Joachim Joesten).....\$1
- Critical Reactions to the Warren Report  
(Selection of articles by Murray Kempton,  
Leo Sauvage, Mark Lane, Herbert Packer,  
Curtis Crawford, George and Pat Nash)....\$1