

'68, Last Year For Warren

by Joseph W. Masi

The dawn of a New Year is always an uncomfortable time in a country that has so many unfinished projects on its agenda as does our modern America.

Already the preparations for the presidential election are being made while the people ponder whether it is better to decide for whom to vote now or to wait until the Autumn nominating conventions tell us our candidates' names. Vietnam waits to be resolved. Crime must be curbed. Problems arising from the deteriorating condition of the physical environment have new meaning and a special urgency about them which is being rallied by the civic spirited through television.

And after all this there is the

still disturbing failure of everyone in government to explain the circumstances, conditions, and logistics of the assassination of President Kennedy four long years ago.

In ordinary times one might expect the public clamor for a suitable and logical report on a presidential assassination to attain thunderous proportions. For a time, back in the Winter and Spring of 1965, it appeared that such an outcry was developing. What brought about its decline and final limitation to a relatively small circle of critics has been the larger concern about an unnecessary war in an unlikely corner of the world.

Americans have always been a single-interest constituency to a single-interest government. The battle cries of our past poli-

tical agonies usually summed up a special feeling about one overriding issue—"54-49 or Fight," "Free Silver," "The Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable." And in more recent years a presidential candidate sought a catch-phrase to make the multiplicity of national problems seem to be a coherent unit that might be solved at a single stroke: "Let's Get The Nation Moving Again."

With this long history of circumsppection it was inevitable that the interest in solving the puzzle of the assassination of John Kennedy should fade.

It is unfortunate that conditions weigh so heavily against the rekindling of national concern in this issue, especially when 1968, for fair reasons or foul, seems to be the year in

which the opponents of the Warren Commission Report will have their last attempt to prove the conclusions of the Report are not true.

In February Jim Garrison's case against villains who seem more than ever to have been selected from a random sampling of cranks and fools, will go before a jury. It is possible that a failure by Garrison to bring in a guilty verdict for any of the accused will destroy the influence of responsible critics of the caliber of Sylvia Meagher and Josiah Thompson.

Both of these critics have published important new books about the assassination and the Warren Commission's handling of it. Thompson also gives his own account of how the murder was done.

Critics

In future issues of the New York Free Press we will be examining these works: Thompson's "Six Seconds in Dallas," (Bernard Geis Associates, \$8.95) and Mrs. Meagher's "Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities, and The Report" (Bobbs-Merrill Inc. \$8.50). We will also deal with John Sparrow's long article in support of the Commission's findings published in a recent issue of The Times Literary Supplement.

Any other works received by us will be given appropriate attention in the hope that the truth will emerge and the confidence that the works of citizens outside the government will bear the burden of revealing it to the rest of us.