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Warren Report Challenged By Educator

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NEW YORK (UPI)—A California educator asserts that an analysis of the entire Warren Commission report and two new books on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy provide "compelling" substantiation of the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

Writing in The New York Review of Books, Prof. Richard H. Popkin contended the commission's conclusion that Oswald was a loner is not consistent with much of the material in its 26-volume report on the late president's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The chairman of the philosophy department at the University of California, San Diego, demanded that the investigation be reopened.

Popkin's own theory is that a man who looked like Oswald and often posed as Oswald was the actual assassin, while Oswald was used to create the illusion that a lonely, alienated man with pro-Castro leanings was the sole perpetrator of the crime. He also marshals evidence purporting to indicate another assassin was on the scene in Dallas plus one or two other conspirators who drove getaway cars.

Charges Material Overlooked

The educator used a review of Edward J. Epstein's "Inquest" and Harold Weisberg's "Whitewash," both of which take issue with the Warren report, as a forum for his own speculation, based on two readings of the voluminous report, material he says was overlooked by the commission and what he describes as new evidence gathered by independent investigators.

He claimed Oswald was known to be a poor shot and his rifle was inaccurate, whereas the assassin was "extraordinarily accurate" if he made three hits in three shots at a moving target in a space of time that could not be duplicated by FBI experts.

Furthermore, Popkin said, too many witnesses reported a shot from a knoll overlooking the assassination scene for the commission to have concluded that all the shots came from the depository building where Oswald worked. He theorizes that an assassin on the knoll got into the trunk of a station wagon and was driven from the scene on the basis of a recently disclosed eyewitness account.

Believes Both in Depository

The professor claims that all evidence points to the presence of both Oswald and his look-alike in the depository and quotes eyewitnesses who saw both leave the building. Scores of witnesses gave the commission evidence on the "other" Oswald, whom Popkin maintains was a good shot and drove a car—which the real Oswald did not, but the commission wrote this off to mistaken identity.

He charged that the commission never really established where the first bullet struck Kennedy or what happened to it, never examined the photos or X-rays of the hospital, never pursued Oswald's (or his look-alike's) alleged association with Mrs. Sylvia Odio, a Cuban refugee leader in Dallas, and never explained logically the discrepancies in descriptions of the paper bag in which Oswald allegedly carried his gun.

Popkin made it clear that he does not believe Oswald was sincere in his pro-Communist, pro-Castro activities and that he could have been involved with either right- or left-wing conspirators—"a minor figure in the venture...his proclivities in no way representing those of the group."