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Oswald As Part Of Conspiracy

By FREDERICK M. WINSHIP
NEW YORK (UPI) — A California educator charges that an analysis of the entire Warren Commission report and two new books on the Kennedy assassination 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, Tex., 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.

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.

"Whatever information might emerge from a renewed investigation, a reading of the 26 volumes forces one to the conclusion that the commission did a poor job," he said. "It served the American and the world public badly . . . we cannot hide from the fact that some of our most serious and well-meaning citizens have catered to our childish needs for security."

Americans have been lulled by the commission's confirmation that a "lonely nut" killed their President, when in fact the "official" theory was "in many ways implausible from the beginning," Popkin says. For one thing, 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 eye witness account.

Popkin presents much material in an effort to bolster his belief that bullet 399, which was

found at Parkland Hospital, never passed through the bodies of either Kennedy or Gov. Mark Connally and was a plant to link Oswald to the slaying. The bullet had been in the gun found in the Depository at some time but no evidence was presented in the Warren report that the gun was fired on Nov. 22 or even handled by Oswald that day, he says.

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"

In Kennedy Assassination

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.

"One gets the impression that the hard pressed staff found it convenient to ascribe all the incidents to tricks of memory and other aberrations, notwithstanding the fact that many witnesses were apparently reliable and disinterested people whose testimony was confirmed by others," said Popkin.

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.

Explanations Offered

Popkin offered his own explanations for some of the "holes" in the Warren report and urged the American public to demand a "real examination" of the events behind Kennedy's assassination "and what it involves for all of us." He stresses his belief in the importance of proving whether Kennedy was shot in the back, which if established would make it "un-

autopsy," he wrote. "The question whether the FBI reports were accurate can only be answered if the photographs of the autopsy and the x-rays are made available for examination by responsible and independent observers, if not the public at large . . . the photos and x-rays should be made available immediately."

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."

"If the plot was as I have suggested, Oswald played his role well," said the professor.

Charged

"The police chased him and found him, and ignored all other clues, suspects and possibilities," he added.