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## A DISTURBING FLURRY OF THEORIES

# Were There Two Oswalds?

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The Kennedy assassination grows "curiouser and curiouser."

A virtual deluge of books and magazine articles has flowed from presses in the past few weeks, each one seemingly more startling and disturbing than that which preceded it.

A new theory is proffered this week by Richard H. Popkin in the New York Review of Books.

Popkin, who is chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, suggests that there were TWO Lee Harvey Oswalds involved in the Dallas shooting that unforgettable November afternoon.

His article, which stretches across 11 pages of the periodical, is yet another upsetting effort in the case against the Warren Commission. When the members of that august group decided that Lee Harvey Oswald was the only assassin, they chose to ignore an impressive body of testimony which did not fit into the single-assassin theory.

### Far-Fetched But Possible

Mr. Popkin's article postulates an admittedly far-fetched theory, that conspirators came up with a duplicate Oswald, wife and children. But it seems convincing in light of testimony culled from the 26-volume Warren report. Too many reliable witnesses, who underwent lie detector tests, saw Oswald when he was proven to be hundreds of miles away. Of course, the commission decided these witnesses were mistaken. The other answer is, of course, that there were two Oswalds.

Popkin suggests that the "real Oswald was merely a front man for a band of conspirators, used to create the illusion that a lonely, "alienated nut" committed the crime.

Writes Popkin: "On my theory, there were two assassins, plus Oswald, the suspect. As-

assassin one was on the knoll (near the parkway upon which the Kennedy caravan moved); assassin two, second Oswald, was on the sixth floor of the Book Depository. In spite of all the eye-and ear-witnesses who heard shooting from the knoll and saw smoke there, what I believe has kept reasonable people from believing anyone shot from there, besides the pompous denials, is that the sheriff's men and the police . . . found nothingg."

Popkin investigated the spot and found a picket fence "perfect for resting the gun upon. It can't be seen from the overpass. A shot or shots fired from there would get the right angles to conform to the medical evidence and the pictures."

Richard N. Goodwin, reviewing a recent book about the Dallas tragedy, called for an independent group to investigate the Warren Commission's report.

Goodwin, a former speech writer, trouble-shooter and adviser to President Kennedy, said a small panel of experts could first check the report.

If they find it inadequate, a larger panel should re-evaluate the findings and seek new evidence, he said.

As The Louisville Times noted the other day, conspiracies die hard. But the fact nevertheless remains that the Warren report leaves a distressingly large number of unanswered questions. These questions include such basics as the point of entry for the first bullet which struck the President.

The fact that the official photographs and X-rays of the President's body have not been released adds credence to these theories. Writing in the July 11 issue of The Nation, history Prof. Jacob Cohen of Brandeis, argues that "the longer these X-rays and photos are hidden, the more credible these accusations will appear. If there is something sinister afoot, let us expose it. If there is not, let us silence these accusations and also inhibit what promises to be decades of dreary fantasizing."