

Saturday Evening Post Asks for Warren Review

Joins Life in Call for a New Study of Kennedy Findings

The Saturday Evening Post publishes in its Jan. 14 issue, distributed today, a review of the assassination of President Kennedy and of the findings of the Warren Commission and its critics. The author concludes that circumstantial evidence supports the theory of a second assassin.

The magazine, in an editorial, called for a new inquiry into the commission's disputed findings. "The possibility of a conspiracy," it said, "is too ugly and too important to be left to gossip and speculation."

The magazine's cover article is by Richard J. Whalen, author of "The Founding Father: The Story of Joseph P. Kennedy." Mr. Whalen proposes that President Johnson appoint a special joint committee of Congress or a citizen's panel of independent investigators to "weigh every shred of evidence, old and new."

The Post's editorial said that its writer's suggestion might not be "the wisest course." It urged instead that there be "a meticulous re-examination of the disputed findings" of the Warren Commission by "a fact-finding committee of indisputable impartiality" concentrating on the major areas of controversy one by one.

The call for a new inquiry was the second such stand by one of the big mass circulation magazines. Life magazine called for a new official inquiry on Nov. 21. At that time a White House spokesman replied to the call by citing a statement by President Johnson on Nov. 4.



George Csorna

Richard J. Whalen, author, urged new investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

The President said that if there were any evidence causing any reasonable person to have a doubt about the report, "I am sure that the commission and the appropriate authorities will take action that may be justified."

Mr. Whalen's article concludes:

"The evidence against [Lee Harvey] Oswald remains as hard as it was when [Jack] Ruby's bullet killed him. Every piece of soft evidence, from the puff of smoke to the tracing of the President's head-snap, tends to support the possibility of a second assassin."

The first reference was to evidence marshaled by Mark Lane

It Says Possibility of a Plot Must Not Be Left to Gossip

in his best seller, "Rush to Judgment," that a witness saw "a puff of smoke" curling above the trees on the grassy knoll ahead of Mr. Kennedy's car on Elm Street.

The second reference was to an experiment by Vincent Salamandra, a lawyer of Philadelphia. At the National Archives he placed two slide projectors side by side and superimposed pictures of Mr. Kennedy receiving his head wound. Then he traced Mr. Kennedy's head snapping backward and to the left, consistent with the theory of a second assassin on the knoll, inconsistent with a shot fired by Oswald from the Texas School Book Depository, where Oswald worked.

The magazine says that Mr. Whalen "was harassed by an official runaround and the constant response of 'no comment' during his three-month investigation into the Kennedy assassination."

In the editorial The Post proposes that the fact-finding group start out by examining the X-rays of President Kennedy's body, which the Warren Commission did not do. Thus the new inquiry could "determine once and for all that the autopsy report was correct or incorrect."

Then it proposes that the inquiry resolve questions arising out of the ballistics reports, and dispose of the questions raised by the amateur movie film of Abraham Zapruder, Dallas dress manufacturer, whether Oswald could have fired three shots that would have been recorded as the film recorded them.