

# The Mystery

## Report on Assassination Remains Open to Question

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*Of the Inquirer Staff*

**T**HE WARREN REPORT is like an old used car: it rattles a lot and the tires are thin, but it's still running.

Ten years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Report still stands as the authoritative account of his death. A decade of criticism has failed to overturn it.

Nevertheless, across the nation, from Fire Island to Wounded Knee, from Haverford, Pa., to Belleville, Mich., a set of critics remain convinced that the report is a tent of lies, concealing rather than revealing the truth.

Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson, Mark Lane, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Dr. E. Forrest Chapman, Bob Smith, Bud Fensterwald and Penn Jones Jr.—these are only a few of the researchers who do not believe that Lee Harvey Oswald "acted alone," as the report asserts, on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy died in Dallas.

To mark the tenth anniversary of Kennedy's death, The Inquirer took a long look at the Warren Report, reassessing the evidence and interviewing the critics.

The conclusion is that, although some questions remain and some of the Report's findings are debatable, no

acceptable alternative has been found that explains the assassination better than the Report.

The Report is a vast tableau: 888 pages with 26 volumes of supporting testimony behind it. It is often microscopically detailed, at one point even offering an analysis of Oswald's pubic hair.

But there are holes in it, questions unanswered and wonders that remain. Some of them:

—Who was the Umbrella Man? Why has he never been identified? Was he a co-conspirator?

—Who was the unknown man that the CIA photographed in Mexico City before the assassination and misidentified as Oswald? Was he another plottier?

—Where is the brain of John F. Kennedy? It was not buried with him, but Government agencies will not say where it is now. Several physicians who doubt the Report believe the brain might show the marks of other bullets besides Oswald's.

—How could one bullet pass through the bodies of two men (Kennedy and John B. Connally, who was then the governor of Texas) and emerge looking virtually like new? Could this bullet be a piece of false evidence that was planted?

—Why should anyone believe a Report that was apparently doubted even by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the man who ordered it prepared? Despite the 552 witnesses ques-

tioned by the Warren Commission, and many others interviewed by journalists and independent researchers, some of the questions are yet to be answered. Here is a rundown:

### The Umbrella Man

**R**OUGHLY 400 PERSONS were in or around Dealey Plaza, a three-acre park in downtown Dallas, when Kennedy was slain there at 12:30 P. M. on a Friday. The names of more than 250 are known. Of those unknown, the Umbrella Man is the most puzzling.

The dark blue Lincoln limousine carrying Kennedy was fired upon as it approached a sign saying "Stemmons Freeway — Keep Right." Standing next to the sign was a man holding an open umbrella.

The sun was shining and the sky was cloudless. Rain had stopped falling almost three hours before. In all the hundreds of photographs taken along the route of Kennedy's motorcade through Dallas, the Umbrella Man is the only person seen with an open umbrella.

In photos taken immediately after the shooting, his umbrella is closed. Several critics of the Warren Report suspect that the opening of his umbrella by the Umbrella Man may have been a signal for the gunfire to commence.

The Umbrella Man was middle-aged, in his late 30s or early 40s, dressed conservatively in a dark suit. He walked away after the assassination and he has never been identified,

nor questioned about his puzzling behavior.

### The CIA Photos

**O**SWALD, WHO TRAVELED widely, made his last foreign trip less than two months before the assassination. He was in Mexico City from Sept. 27 until Oct. 2, 1963, vainly applying for a visa to travel to Cuba and Russia.

Four days before the assassination, the FBI received a report on Oswald's visit to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. The report includes photos, taken by a CIA surveillance camera across the street from the Cuban Embassy on Sept. 27, of a man that the CIA identified as Oswald.

It is obviously not Oswald. It is an older, heavier man. Queried after the assassination, the CIA said a confidential source inside the embassy had identified the man as Oswald.

The CIA has never learned, or at least never revealed, the man's real identity, nor disclosed exactly how he was misidentified. Critics wonder if he was a secret associate of Oswald, and whether they might have met and plotted while they were both in Mexico City at the same time.

### Kennedy's Brain

**N**O PHYSICIAN has seen Kennedy's brain since shortly after the autopsy that was performed on the President the day he died. The

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*Lee Harvey Oswald (left), seized as the assassin, had little chance to shed light on the crime. This famous photo shows Oswald being slain two days after the assassination by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator.*

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two sources who know the whereabouts of all the other assassination evidence do not know the whereabouts of the brain.

The National Archives in Washington, D. C., holds virtually all the assassination evidence, including such grim artifacts as Oswald's rifle and the three bullet fragments involved in the case.

Asked about the brain, archivist Marion Johnson said, "We don't have it and I don't know where it is."

Burke Marshall, former assistant U. S. attorney general who is now deputy dean of Yale Law School, represents the Kennedy family in matters pertaining to the assassination.

Asked the whereabouts of the brain, Marshall said, "I can't answer that question. I have never asked that question of the family and I do not know."

The Warren Report concluded that both bullets that hit Kennedy came from behind him, from the Texas School Book Depository where Oswald worked.

Some critics think that the brain, if it were made available for examination, might show evidence of a shot from the front, from the spot in Dealey Plaza commonly called "the grassy knoll."

## Exhibit 399

**T**HE WARREN COMMISSION decided that the first bullet that wounded Kennedy struck him in the back, went through his neck, then hit Connally in the back, went through Connally's body and broke his fifth right rib, went through Connally's right wrist where it broke the radius bone, and finally lodged in Connally's left thigh.

By far the most controversial piece of assassination evidence is this bullet, called Commission Exhibit 399 by the Warren Commission and dubbed "the magic bullet" by sarcastic critics. Some of the reasons:

— Although this bullet is supposed to have passed through seven layers of skin and broken two bones, it is in almost perfect condition. Test bullets, fired for comparison through the wrist of a cadaver and the chest of a goat, were both mashed up and defaced.

— Despite passing through all this skin and bone — plus two suit coats and two shirts, Kennedy's tie and Connally's sleeve and pants leg — the bullet when found did not have any blood, tissue or threads on it. It was clean.

— Unlike the other two bullet fragments involved in the case, Exhibit

399 was not found in the Presidential limousine. It was found on a stretcher at Parkland Memorial Hospital, supposedly after falling out of Connally's thigh. Some critics suspect it was a piece of false evidence planted there, possibly, by Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby.

## Johnson's Doubts

**I**N LAST JULY'S ISSUE of the Atlantic Monthly, Léo Janos, formerly a member of President Lyndon Johnson's staff, quoted Johnson as having said, "I never believed that Oswald acted alone, although I can accept that he pulled the trigger."

Janos said Johnson believed that Kennedy was killed in retaliation for an unsuccessful CIA assassination plot against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

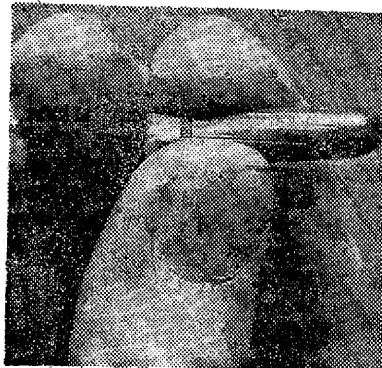
Johnson's doubts were shared by at least one member of the Warren Commission, the late Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia. In 1970, Russell said of Oswald, "I think that someone else worked with him."

**S**INCE THE WARREN REPORT was issued on Sept. 24, 1964, following a 10-month investigation that cost \$1.8 million, there have been two and possibly three stages in public attitude toward it.

In the first stage, there was skepticism and doubt, fed by the publication of such critical books as Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest" and Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment," both in 1966; and Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds in Dallas" and Sylvia Meagher's "Accessories: After the Fact," both in 1967.

This stage ended in 1969, when a New Orleans jury acquitted Clay L. Shaw on charges brought by District Attorney Jim Garrison that Shaw conspired with Oswald to murder Kennedy.

The case brought by Garrison was almost universally judged as a ludicrous farce. Although several critics including Ms. Meagher steered clear



*Warren Commission decided that this bullet passed through Kennedy and wounded Gov. John Connally of Texas.*

of Garrison, others including Lane backed the swashbuckling D.A. In the fallout following the Shaw trial, there was a strong public revulsion against all Warren Report critics in general.

Now in 1973, the 10th anniversary of the assassination, a third stage seems to be coming up. No one, however, is exactly sure of its shape. Part of this quandary is due to the Watergate scandal.

Watergate has manifestly demonstrated that the Federal Government is quite capable of lying, destroying evidence and obstructing justice. Critics hope that the public will thus be more moved to re-examine the Kennedy case.

There is another side to the Watergate question, however. If the Watergate plotters failed so conspicuously to cover up a petty burglary, how can anyone believe that some cabal of plotters against Kennedy could have gotten away with murdering a President in full public view?

**A** SECOND IMPONDERABLE involves the fact that this year is the 10th anniversary of the assassination.

On the other one hand, the case is receiving more attention from the news media than at any time since the Shaw trial.

On the other, this anniversary probably represents the peak of public interest. Time is steadily taking away important figures in the case. If anything more was involved than simply Oswald's lone action, soon graves may hold the secret.

Here are the cases of six figures from whom further testimony is no longer available:

1. Two days after the assassination, Dallas nightclub owner Jack L. Ruby shot Oswald fatally, in the basement of the Dallas police station, in the first murder ever seen live on television.

2. On Jan. 3, 1967 Ruby died of cancer at age 55 in Parkland Memorial Hospital, the same hospital where both Kennedy and Oswald died.

3. Abraham Zapruder took the most famous amateur movie ever made, 22 seconds of silent color film that show Kennedy being shot. He sold it to Life Magazine for \$150,000 and, except at the Clay Shaw trial, it has never been publicly shown.

Zapruder, who owned a dress shop in a building across the street from the Texas School Book Depository, died of cancer at age 66 in Dallas on Aug. 30, 1970.

4. After the assassination, Oswald caught a ride home in a taxi driven by William W. Whaley. On Dec. 18, 1965,

Whaley was killed in a two-car accident on the Trinity River bridge in Dallas.

5. Earlene Roberts was the housekeeper at the rooming house at 1026 N. Beckley st. in Dallas where Oswald lived. In an incident never entirely explained, she testified that after Oswald reached home via Whaley's cab, a Dallas police car pulled up in front of the house, honked its horn several times as though in signal, and slowly drove away.

On Jan. 10, 1966, Mrs. Roberts died of an apparent heart attack at the age of 60.

6. Thirteen days before the assassination, a Dallas auto salesman named Albert Guy Bogard gave a demonstration ride to a prospective customer who gave his name as Lee Oswald and said he expected to have money enough to buy a car soon. The Warren Commission subsequently concluded that this was not Lee Harvey Oswald.

On Feb. 14, 1966, St. Valentine's Day, Bogard committed suicide in a cemetery in Hallsville, La., by running a hose into his car from the exhaust pipe. He was 41.

**S**TILL ALIVE AND WELL, however, is the most important witness whose testimony was contradicted by the Warren Report: the former governor of Texas, John B. Connally.

The cornerstone of the Warren Report is "the single bullet theory," the argument that one single bullet, the one called Exhibit 399, drilled through the bodies of both Kennedy and Connally.

Neither Connally nor his wife Nellie, who were sitting in front of Ken-

edy and his wife Jackie, in the death car, believe in the single-bullet theory. Said Connally, in a famous article in Life Magazine on Nov. 25, 1966:

"They talk about the 'one-bullet' or 'two-bullet theory,' but as far as I'm concerned there is no theory: There is my absolute knowledge and Nellie's too, that one bullet caused the President's first wound, and that an entirely separate shot struck me."

Connally was unavailable for an interview in connection with this theory. But he said in that same Life article, "It's a certainty. I'll never change my mind."

Not a single eyewitness in Dealey Plaza testified that one bullet struck both the President and the governor. Despite their views and those of the Connally's, however, the Warren Commission went ahead with the single-

bullet theory as the keystone of its case.

For in the words of Norman Redlich, an assistant counsel who wrote more of the Warren Report than anyone else, "To say that they were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying that there were two assassins."

Explaining why this is true is a little complicated, but here is an attempt:

To begin with, it should be remembered that no one can be absolutely certain how many shots were fired that day. No one had a tape recorder playing and no movie cameras were using sound film. There is no audio record of the assassination.

Although witnesses gave varying counts of the number of shots they heard, some saying four or five, the Warren Commission finally decided that Oswald fired three shots. They did so in part because three shells were found in the sixth-floor corner of the Texas School Book Depository from which it is believed he fired.

The initial FBI report on the case said the first and last shots hit Kennedy and the middle one struck Connally. The Warren Commission finally decided, however, that one shot hit both Kennedy and Connally; one missed; and another, the fatal shot, hit Kennedy in the skull.

**A**NOTHER COMPLICATION, besides the lack of a sound record of the shots, is that the Zapruder film, the best available visual record of the assassination, does not show the moment when Kennedy was first hit.

It shows the final fatal shot. In Frame 313, probably the most famous single frame of film in motion picture history, the President's head explodes in a corona of blood.

But earlier, when first hit, Kennedy is blocked off from Zapruder's view by a sign, which has since been removed from Dealey Plaza, saying, "Stemmons Freeway — Keep Right."

When Kennedy reappears from behind the sign in Frame 225 of the Zapruder film, he has already been hit, his right hand rising toward his wounded neck.

He is behind the sign for only one second. But since Oswald's bullets traveled 2,165 feet per second, the instant Kennedy was hit by the first shot cannot be pinned down with the certainty of the later head shot in Frame 313.

Repeated tests showed that Oswald's

bolt action, mail-order, \$21.45 rifle could not be made to fire any faster than once every 2.3 seconds.

Time measurements of the Zapruder film show beyond doubt, however, that there are less than 2.3 seconds between the earliest instant Kennedy could have been hit, and the latest Connally could have been struck.

Kennedy is obviously all right in Frame 206, the last one in which he is visible before passing behind the sign. Connally is obviously wounded by Frame 236, in which his mouth flies open in pain. Since Zapruder's film rolled through his camera at the rate of 18 frames per second, there is less than two seconds between these frames.

Therefore either Oswald hit them both with one shot, with Connally showing a more delayed reaction than Kennedy, or there was another gun in-

involved and both men were hit by separate shots.

**T**HE CREATOR of the single-bullet theory was Arlen Specter, an assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, who is now finishing up eight years as Philadelphia district attorney after losing a race for reelection this month.

Interviewed for this story, Specter said he has not changed any of his opinions since the Report was issued, and still believes that the single-bullet theory is valid.

Specter's strongest argument is the fact that his theory, alone of all the speculations in the case, fits with the physical evidence — the three bullet fragments found.

These three are Exhibit 399, an almost-whole bullet weighing 158.6 grains, and two small mangled pieces, one weighing 44.6 grains and the other 21. (An unfired bullet from Oswald's rifle weighed 160 to 161 grains, or slightly more than one-third of an ounce).

Here is the way Specter fits the three fragments into his theory:

Exhibit 399 went through Kennedy's neck and Connally's chest and wrist and stopped in his thigh. The other two fragments are shattered pieces of the bullet that smashed Kennedy's skull. The other shot missed and that bullet was lost somewhere outside the Presidential limousine.

The courses of the wounds through Kennedy's neck and Connally's chest are both on downward paths, so the bullet or bullets that caused them had to stop in the car. If another bullet

was involved, where is it? Where did it go?

As one of the Warren Report critics, Richard H. Popkin, has conceded, "For those who do not accept the Commission's one-bullet hypothesis, there is a genuine problem of explaining where the bullets went."

Specter doesn't have that problem. His hypothesis covers them all. In the absence of a more convincing counter-argument, his theory has stood the test of a decade.

**W**HILE I WAS WORKING on this story, which took several weeks, a newspaperman who did a lot of work on the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Report years ago told me:

"Trying to knock down the Warren Report is like trying to catch smoke. Time and again I chased what looked like a promising lead, only to have it peter out. There are odd places in it (the Report), but it's hard to find something to put in its place."

Two recent leads that failed to pan out are examination of the photographs and X-rays of Kennedy's official autopsy, and the rumor that Oswald was an informant on the payroll of the FBI.

The first lead arose from the fact that two sets of doctors saw Kennedy's body, but neither saw all of his wounds.

Dallas doctors, who were civilians, first saw Kennedy's body when he was brought wounded to Parkland Memorial Hospital. While they strove vainly to save his life, he lay face upward and they never turned him over. So the Dallas doctors never saw the wound in his back.

Trying to help the dying President breathe, the Dallas doctors performed a tracheostomy, which means cutting a hole in the windpipe. The place they chose to cut was across the wound in Kennedy's neck.

When the body reached Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Washington, D. C., the three military doctors who performed the autopsy did not notice the neck wound because it was obscured by the tracheostomy incision. So they saw only the wound in the back and, obviously, the gaping wound in Kennedy's head.

The two sets of doctors did not consult with one another and get their signals straight until after the autopsy was over and the body was gone, on its way to be prepared for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Warren Report subsequently reconciled their examinations by deciding that the back wound marked the entrance of the bullet called Exhibit 399, and the neck wound marked

its exit.

Many skeptics suspected they got it backwards, however, and that Kennedy was shot through the neck from the front. They also wondered if he could have been shot in the head from the front.

**T**HE KEY, SUPPOSEDLY, lay in the autopsy and X-ray photographs taken of Kennedy — photographs locked up in the National Archives and forbidden to public view. These photographs were not even shown to the Warren Commission. The ban on them was not lifted until last year.

To date, only three non-government physicians have been permitted to see these two sets of photographs. They are Dr. John K. Lattimer of New York on Jan. 7, 1972; Dr. Cyril H. Wecht of Pittsburgh on Aug. 23-24, 1972; and Dr. E. Forrest Chapman of Belleville, Mich., on July 5-6, 1973.

In a lengthy article published in the May, 1972, issue of the magazine Resident and Staff Physician, Dr. Lattimer declared that his examination "brought to light no basic discrepancies in the concepts put forth in the Warren Commission Report." His article included sketches of the X-rays.

Dyed-in-the-wool critics brushed Lattimer's findings aside, however, declaring that he was a patsy who had made known his favorable attitude toward the Warren Report beforehand. They placed more faith in Wecht and Chapman, both qualified pathologists who do not believe that the Warren Report is true.

Lengthy interviews with Wecht in Pittsburgh and Chapman at his home in Belleville, however, disclosed that neither of them now question the basic accuracy of the drawings and physical measurements in Lattimer's article.

Neither Wecht nor Chapman believes that Oswald "acted alone." But they both concede that there is nothing in the autopsy photographs and X-rays to prove he didn't, in particular that there is nothing to show any shot from the front.

**A**NOTHER SPECULATION that has fascinated Warren Report critics for years is the rumor that Oswald was a secret informer paid by the FBI.

Nowhere in the 888 pages of the Warren Report is it mentioned that the commission received this tip from two high public officials.

Texas State Attorney General Waggoner Carr and Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade relayed to the commission a story that Oswald had been



*This man, photographed in Mexico City by the CIA prior to assassination, was at first identified by CIA as Oswald. He remains part of the unsolved mystery.*

an FBI informant since September, 1962; that he was on the FBI payroll at \$200 a month on the day he was arrested; and that he had been assigned an FBI informant number, S-179.

This was first published in 1965 by Representative Gerald R. Ford, a commission member who is now Vice President-designate, in a book entitled, "Portrait of the Assassin." It was examined at some length the next year in Epstein's "Inquest."

Epstein justifiably criticized the commission's investigation of this tip as ridiculously inadequate. Essentially, the commission asked FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover about it and he said it wasn't true.

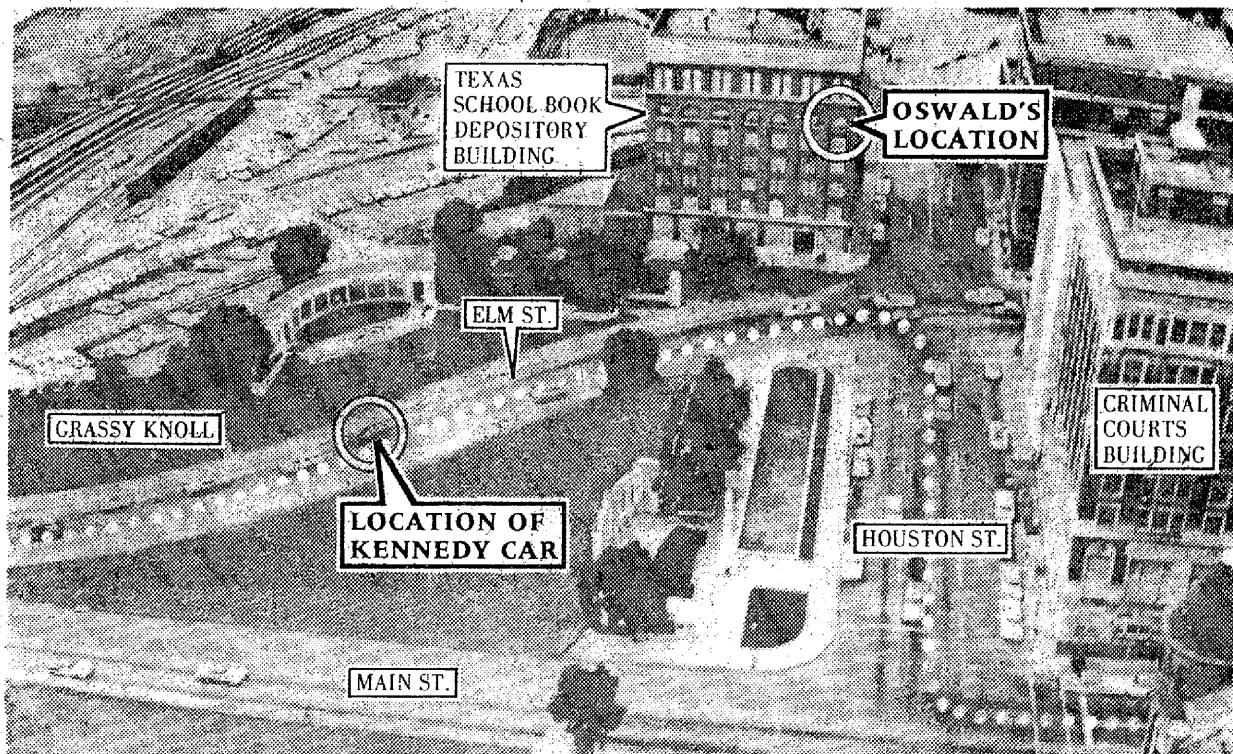
Chief Justice Earl Warren, commission chairman, refused to even look at Oswald's FBI file. The commission never questioned the apparent source of the Carr-Wade tip, a newspaper reporter in Houston, Texas, named Alonzo Hudkins.

Last week I talked to Hodkins on the phone in Baltimore, Md., where he is now a reporter for the News-American. "I think Oswald was either a stoolie for the FBI or the CIA and turned out to be the greatest double agent of all time," he said.

He declined to name the exact source for his belief, but said, "I was told by several sources from at least four different agencies — the (Dallas) city police, the sheriff's office, the DA's office and one federal agency."

When I asked him his source for Oswald's informant number, Hudkins said he and three associates "made up the number." When I asked him what the real number was, Hudkins said, "There wasn't a real number."

"I've never told anybody about making up the number until this week." Hudkins said. He said he had



*A view of the assassination scene and route of Kennedy motorcade.*

no idea where the figure of \$200 a month as Oswald's pay came from, that he wasn't the source of that.

Maybe, just maybe, Oswald was an informer for the FBI. But obviously the original tip was much flimsier than the way it has been standing in print for the past few years.

**WARREN REPORT CRITICS** have always been fascinated by the fact that Oswald, unlike most assassins, never confessed, even on his death bed. He denied all charges through 12 hours of police questioning. He insisted he was being framed and told reporters, "I'm just a patsy."

Critics have never received any support from the Kennedy family, however. Most recently, Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy said in an article in this month's issue of *McCall's Magazine*:

"I'm satisfied that it (the assassination) was the work of one individual. I'm satisfied with the Warren Commission's findings."

**THIS COMING FRIDAY** at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C., the principal assassination researchers and scholars in this country will assemble for a two-day convention to discuss the killings of John Kennedy and his brother Robert, the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and the wounding of Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

The driving force behind the convention is the Committee to Investi-

gate Assassinations (CTIA), a Washington-based organization founded in 1968 by critics of the Warren Report.

Executive director of CTIA, and its principal source of financial support, is Bernard (Bud) Fensterwald Jr., the defense attorney for both convicted Watergate burglar James W. McCord and convicted King assassin James Earl Ray. Most of the CTIA research is handled by Robert P. (Bob) Smith, a walking encyclopedia of assassination facts.

With the Warren Commission long since disbanded, the CTIA is now the principal national clearing house for the collection and dissemination of Kennedy assassination research. To date, Fensterwald has put \$12,000 of his own money into an effort to disprove the Warren Report.

"Oswald is not the lone assassin, if he's the assassin at all," Fensterwald said in an interview in his Washington office. "My real honest feeling is that he was a patsy. I'm convinced a good part of the answer lies in (Oswald's pre-assassination trip to) Mexico."

In Wounded Knee, S.D., where he is currently an attorney for the American Indian Movement, "Rush to Judgment" author Mark Lane is putting his trust in a new movie called "Executive Action."

Lane was co-author of the novel on which the film is based. "There's a better chance this film will reopen a serious factual examination (of the assassination) than anything that's happened in the last 10 years," he said in an interview at Wounded Knee.

The movie depicts three riflemen killing Kennedy. This is more conservative than Lane's own opinion, which features four or five gunmen including one firing a pistol out of a sewer.

**INTERVIEWED AT HIS** suburban Philadelphia home on the campus of Haverford College, "Six Seconds in Dallas" author Josiah Thompson said he now suspects that some of the assassination evidence was falsified.

"I'm convinced that some of the pieces of the puzzle we've been given just don't belong to the puzzle," he said. "I think Exhibit 399 is the red herring in this."

Thompson thinks four shots from three guns killed Kennedy. "I think Oswald was involved some way, perhaps peripherally, with the Intelligence community, and the commission simply decided to look the other way," he said.

Sylvia Meagher, author of "Accessories After the Fact," still speaks with profound regret about Garrison's abortive prosecution of Clay Shaw, which she described as "ruinous, destroying all that we (critics) had done before."

In an interview at her vacation home on Fire Island, N. Y., she mused, "It's always been hard to separate the nuts and the scholars in this case. The material itself is rather lurid."

At his neat red brick home in Belleville, Mich., where no visitor is allowed to smoke a cigaret, Dr. E. Forrest Chapman still harbors far-reaching suspicions despite his personal study of

the Kennedy autopsy photographs and X-rays.

He sarcastically speaks of Exhibit 399 as "that bullet that did everything but serve tea." He believes that Watergate helps the critics' case because "People are waking up to the idea that criminals are running the government." A life member of the John Birch Society, Chapman believes that Kennedy was killed "because he was turning right making a strong turn toward Americanism."

In Pittsburgh, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, is not surprised that no one will disclose the whereabouts of Kennedy's brain, which he wants to examine. "Of course the brain is missing," he said, "because the brain would tell us whether one shot or two shots struck the President's head."

Wecht believes a second assassin

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was involved, probably also firing at Kennedy from behind. Asked how such a conspiracy could be concealed for so long, he replied, "Who knows why nobody has spilled the beans? Maybe the spillers of beans aren't around anymore."

In suburban Dallas, Penn Jones Jr., the peppery editor and publisher of the weekly Midlothian Mirror, continues to keep patient count of the people involved in and around the assassination who have since died, some naturally, some violently.

Jones believes that Kennedy's assassination represented a military takeover of the Federal Government. "I hope I'm crazy," he said in an interview. "Because if I'm not, we're in big trouble."

**I**N DALLAS, most of the scenery involved in the assassination is little changed despite the passage of a decade.

The Texas Theatre, where Oswald was arrested by Dallas police, is still pitching to a mass audience with low-priced double features.

The day Oswald was apprehended there, the Texas was showing a pair of war movies entitled "Cry of Battle" and "War is Hell." Late last month, for a tariff of \$1 per ticket, it was offering "Pit of Horror" and "Vampire Beast."

Visitors may sleep, if they choose, in the last house where Oswald lived. A sign in the front yard of the red brick house at 1026 N. Beckley advertises "Bedrooms for Rent."

Or, if you wish, there are vacancies at the apartment house where Jack Ruby last lived, a motel-like arrangement at 223 S. Ewing now called Marsala Place. Ruby had apartment 206, upstairs overlooking the swimming pool. A sign by the street offers "2 and 3 bedrooms, furnished and unfurnished."

The Texas School Book Depository still stands. The big neon roof sign advertising Hertz Rent-a-Car, which once glittered over Oswald's head, still twinkles on and off with bulbs of yellow, blue and blood-red.

The building is vacant now and locked, and visitors are decidedly unwelcome. An emphatic sign cautions the curious:

"This building is private property. Any attempt to enter will be considered a criminal act. Building is guarded and under 24-hour protection. Enter at your own risk!"

The building is owned by a 73-year-old oil man named Col. D. Harold Byrd. He bought it in 1937 for \$80,000. He wants \$1.2 million for it now.

**A**MERICANS HAVE ALWAYS hated Presidential assassins.

John Wilkes Booth, killer of Abraham Lincoln, was fatally shot in a burning barn.

Spectators paid as much as \$300 each to watch the hanging of Charles J. Guiteau, the killer of James A. Garfield.

After the electrocution of Leon F. Czolgosz, the killer of William McKinley, all of Czolgosz' clothes and personal effects were burned and a carboy of sulfuric acid was poured into his coffin.

But no one is likely to bother Oswald's bones.

At Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth, Texas, his plain pine coffin was lowered into a vault lined with asphalt and reinforced with steel bars. The vault weighs more than a ton.