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★ JFK Assassination

Looking At Books

RUSH TO JUDGMENT, by Mark Lane (Holt, Rinehart, Winston); **INQUEST**, by Edward J. Epstein (Viking Press); **UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION**, by Sylvan Fox (Award Books), reviewed by John M. Cassidy of The Journal Herald staff.

Nov. 22, 1963 — Dallas, Tex. The day began peacefully, but halfway through events happened that shocked America and the world.

Barring the Lincoln assassination, this was the greatest story in almost two centuries.

All three of the above-cited volumes attack the final assassination report given by the Warren Commission.

Mark Lane is an attorney retained by Mrs. Oswald, mother of the accused killer; Epstein a scholar currently in a doctoral program in U.S. government at Harvard; Fox a former Pulitzer Prize winner.

President Kennedy's death affected the entire nation. Whether people liked or disliked him, his death shocked all.

It also made people realize:

"At moments of profound tragedy the tides swirl dangerously. It is easy to lose one's footing in the fog of rumor and report. At such a time, the very arch stones of a nation, no matter how powerful, seem to shift.

"All that has seemed secure (suddenly, if only for an instant) becomes uncertain, unstable and treacherous.

"If the President — in the full panoply of power — can in a few seconds be turned to dust, what mere man feels safe?

"When we add to such a situation a high drama even a whiff of suspicion, a hint of the unknown, a

touch of rumor, the tensions may rise to an excruciating level. Sensations begin to feed upon sensation, rumor upon rumor and left unchecked chaos could result."

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WOULD AMERICA PANIC and lose faith in her government if the public discovered not a lone assassin but an international conspiracy was behind the murder?

Would the public lose faith in the FBI and CIA if it discovered their security preparation for the President had been lax?

Was Oswald actually innocent?

Did someone order the Warren Commission to arrive at the conclusion that Oswald and Oswald alone was involved in the killing?

These questions are examined in the three volumes. Remarks of President Johnson and Chief Justice Earl Warren are also cited:

"I thought there was a conspiracy to get us all:" Mr. Johnson at Dallas' Parkland hospital.

"There are some things about the Kennedy assassination that we will never know in our lifetime:" Warren.

The justice's remark followed a reporter's query about "off the record" testimony which did not find its way into the published Warren Commission report and which has been consigned to the National Archives where testimony cannot be revealed for 75 years.

As expected, especially by Mark Lane, the Warren report and the commission's method of conducting the hearings are assailed. Also attacked are the "inefficiencies" of the FBI, the CIA and the Dallas police.

Of the three volumes, Lane's seems the most factual, carefully documented and thorough.

Fox tends to border on sensationalism, the Epstein's book resembles the term paper from which it began. Epstein's volume was labeled non-factual in a magazine article. However, Lane tends to show the magazine author, not Epstein, was in error.

All three of the volumes are interesting, whether the accusations are believed or not.

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THIS REVIEWER DOES not condone Oswald or think him innocent, but one fact in the Warren Commission report cannot be overlooked:

Only three shots were fired in Dallas, one hitting Kennedy in the neck and also injuring Governor Connally, the second missing the car's occupants and later found in the car, and the third striking the President in the head.

This reviewer cannot believe one shot, as claimed in the Warren report "got two birds with one stone." And Oswald, as the report showed, in tests with Army sharpshooters, could not have gotten off the fourth or more shots in the time the motorcade was fired upon from the Texas Book depository.

Add to this Governor Connally's insistence that the shot which hit the President in the neck was not the same as that which struck the governor. In addition there are secret service reports of four to six shots being heard. Consequently the question arises:

Did all the shots come from the depository?

If, actually, more than three shots were fired, the conclusion must be reached:

There was a conspiracy Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas.

New Books At Library

Inside the Atom, by Isaac Asimov.

The Road to Sarajevo, by Vladimir Dedijer.

Roumeli: Travels in Northern Greece, by Patrick Fermor.

Herbs for Every Garden, by Gertrude B. Foster.

Strangers in High Places (Great Smokies), by Michael Frome.

Garibaldi and His Enemies, by Christopher Hibbert.

Highway Homicide, by Paul W. Kearney.

Raccoons are the Brightest People, by Sterling North.

Empress Maria Theresa, by Robert Pick.

The Gardener's Book of Verse: Poems for Five Seasons, edited by Helen Van Pelt Wilson.