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NYT

## New Questions On Assassination

As the nation observed the third anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy last week, the sorrow over the President's passing was overshadowed by a fundamental question about the Warren Commission's investigation of the crime: should the investigation be reopened in light of widespread doubts about the

commission's methods and conclusions—particularly that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone?

Last week there were new and prestigious advocates of a new investigation. Life Magazine concluded after a 14-page analysis of a film of the assassination that "a new investigating body should be set up." (Its sister publication, Time, however, came to the opposite conclusion and said there was "little valid excuse" for a new inquiry, which led Time Inc.'s editor-in-chief, Hedley Donovan, to say, "We would like to see our magazines arrive at consistent positions.") The New York Times in an editorial on Friday found "enough solid doubts of thoughtful citizens . . . to require answers." Former Presidential assistant Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and Senate Democratic Whip Russell B. Long of Louisiana also called for a fresh examination.

But the methods and conclusions of the Warren Commission had strong defenders as well. Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr., while disputing the commission's theory that he and President Kennedy probably had been hit by the same bullet—a theory some critics claim is vital to the commission's conclusions that there was only

one assassin—said that the commission's findings should be accepted as final and that a new investigation is "neither warranted, justified or desirable."

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said last week: "Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy." And one commission member, former Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles, declared, "I have found no new evidence to justify any reconsideration or any change in the conclusions of the commission."

If some concrete evidence of a conspiracy, or a second assassin, or even a solid doubt of Oswald's guilt were to be unearthed, there would be ample precedent for a new probe: the attack on Pearl Harbor was investigated seven times by various Federal panels.

But as the Kennedy assassination stands now, a new commission would have to pick up a stale trail, contend with the doubts already raised, and then face another round of vivisection from critics who will certainly never let the subject drop.

With all the talk of a possible new study, it seems significant

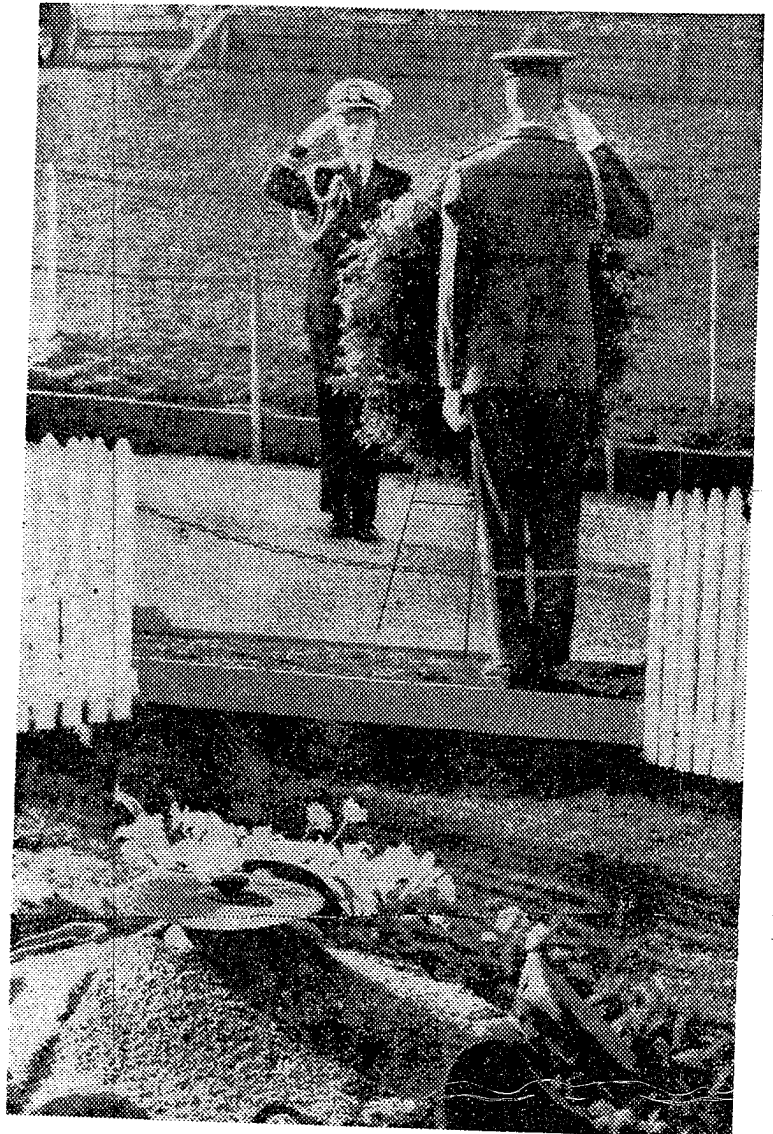
that nobody appeared to be jockeying for a spot on any prospective new study group.

Meanwhile the man who would have to order a second inquiry, President Johnson, was keeping his options characteristically open. Asked by reporters whether the President would consider a new probe, Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers referred them to Mr. Johnson's only statement on the subject:

"I am sure that the commission and the appropriate authorities will take action that may be justified."



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The New York Times (by George Tames), Associated Press

**ANNIVERSARY:** Last Tuesday was the third anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy and from morning until dark more than 10,000 persons walked up the slope at Arlington National Cemetery to pay their respects at the temporary grave (the permanent grave site just down the slope is scheduled to be completed in the spring). Among the visitors were White House naval aide Lieut. Comdr. F. W. Hobbs (top, facing camera) with a wreath from President Johnson, and men and women (bottom two pictures) typical of the more than 15 million who have visited the grave in the past three years. This year the occasion was somewhat shadowed by growing debate in the nation over the Warren Commission's report on the assassination.