

Warren Report Critics Lack Facts

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Thousands of words have been written casting doubts on the Warren Report and the accuracy of its findings on President Kennedy's assassination. There are a lot of facts, however, which the doubters have either ignored or glossed over. Here are some of them:

No. 1 doubt-caster is Mark Lane, attorney for Lee Harvey Oswald's mother. Lane has delivered hundreds of lectures and written a book taking issue with the findings of the Warren Commission.

What Lane neglects to point out is that while he was touring Europe expounding his views on the assassination, he was summoned back to Washington to testify before the Warren Commission. Its members wanted to take advantage of the facts he was broadcasting in Europe which might help them in their investigation.

Lane, however, refused.

He was so uncooperative that the Warren Commission considered citing him for contempt, which it had the power to do. The Commission finally decided that a jail sentence for Lane would only make him a martyr and give him the publicity he was looking for.

One issue in the assassination which was pumped up as a big mystery was the whereabouts of the photographs and X-rays of the late President's

body, and the clothes he wore on the fatal day. It was reported that these had been suppressed or destroyed in order to conceal evidence which might prove the Warren Report false.

Horror Museum

What actually happened was that during the commission's investigation, several promoters tried to secure copies of the photographs and other exhibits connected with the assassination, such as Oswald's gun, in order to establish a traveling museum to be shown at country fairs.

The photograph of Kennedy's head, split open by a bullet, is gruesome in the extreme. And since the commission believed that it was not in good taste to give a national tragedy the aspects of a sideshow, Chief Justice Warren ordered all the photos and X-rays sent to the Justice Department, with instructions that they not be shown to anyone except law enforcement officers or other qualified officials.

At about that time, Jacqueline Kennedy made a request that she be given her husband's clothing. She did not state why she wanted it, and it was suspected she might destroy it in order to remove unhappy memories. However, the disappearance of any evidence might cast doubt on the Commission's findings, so the President's clothing was also

sent to the Justice Department.

As of last week these articles have been turned over to the Archives Office.

The President's clothing, incidentally, clearly shows the fabric of his shirt in front is bent out, indicating that the bullet which passed through his body came from the back.

This is important, because some critics of the Warren Report claim that one shot fired at the President and Gov. Connally came from the front, not the rear, which, they claim, meant there was another assassin besides Oswald.

Some doubt has also been raised as to whether Oswald could have fired three shots in the brief time elapsed. However, Oswald attained the rating of marksman in the Marine Corps, and it did not take much of an expert to fire three shots at the President's slowly moving car.

Work Notes Preserved

The Warren Commission report is voluminous. It takes up an entire book shelf. The Commission did not suppress anything. Its members were mindful that future historians would be digging through the records for years to come, so Commission members even put their work sheets in the final report — the only Commission ever to do so.

One point made by the critics, that the Commission's members were busy men and

didn't have time to attend every session, is true. Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.), was busy guiding the military appropriations bill through Congress during part of the Commission's proceedings, therefore had to be on the Senate floor.

However, a lawyer was appointed to be his representative at all Commission hearings, and at the end of the day Sen. Russell had a transcription of the entire proceedings placed on his desk.

Russell is a thorough public servant, and at one time, dissatisfied with the first cross-examination of Marina Oswald, the assassin's widow, he took a trip to Texas to cross-examine her.

On the Warren Commission were the following top Republicans: Earl Warren, three times elected Republican Governor of California, and candidate for Vice President on the Dewey ticket in 1948; John J. McCloy, former Assistant Secretary of War, High Commissioner to Germany, head of the World Bank and head of the Chase Manhattan Bank; Sen. John Sherman Cooper, former Governor of Kentucky and Ambassador to India; Rep. Gerald Ford of Michigan, Republican Leader of the House.

They were not interested in covering up anything for either the Kennedy or the Johnson Administration.