

Books in the News

More questions on Warren report

By THOMAS M. RETTEW

WHITEWASH II by Harold Weisberg. Published by author, Hyattstown, Md. 250 pages, including pictures. \$4.95.

Former Morning News reporter Harold Weisberg continues his theorizing and documentation of a "shameful cover-up" by the Warren Commission.

The paperback, financed by profits of his first book, "Whitewash," is subtitled "The FBI-Secret Service Cover-Up." It convinces me — and it and its progenitor have helped convince among millions of other ordinary Americans the Luce and Curtis publishing empires — that another investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy is necessary.

In this "untold story of the Warren Report," Weisberg concentrates on the photographic evidence. He has combed carefully the National Archives and has used other sources — some inconceivably ignored by the Warren Commission.

If it was Billy Lovelady and not Lee Harvey Oswald standing on the first-floor steps of the Texas School Book Depository, why wasn't Lovelady asked about the shirt in the famed Altgens picture?

This is just one of the multiple examples of inadequacies of the commission and its staff and its investigators.

There are also frustrating questions of witnesses not called, questions not asked, subtle changes in testimony, alterations in transcript, cropped and tampering and destroying of evidence.

Weisberg's major conclusions are:

What happened to Frames 208-41 of the Zapruder film? Who doctored this evidence, Weisberg asks. His answer is the name of the man who numbered the frames: FBI Special Agent Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, photographic specialist for the FBI.

It would seem that in fair play, J. Edgar Hoover should permit or should himself make some statement on this matter.

The explicit conclusion of this book and its predecessor is that the investigation was bungled, and should be done again, in detail and in public, preferably by Congress.

Supportive conclusions: Marina Oswald's testimony "was paid for"; the report is "barrè" on the Tippit murder; President Kennedy's autopsy was "not worthy that of a Bowery derelict."

Perhaps most startling of all is this: "The carefully suppressed truth, buried in the commission's files and barred from its uncountable millions of words or exhibits, is that both the Secret Service and the FBI immediately reconstructed the crime and concluded that the

President was shot by the first and third bullets, while the governor was struck by the second." So good-bye to Arlen Specter's "magic" single bullet theory.

Weisberg calls the report "a grotesque parody of truthseeking, a burlesque of the law, a mimicry of justice more sinister than the Dreyfus case. It amounts to complicity of executive agencies in the assassination, for it is they, abetted by the staff, who made this cross and nailed the national honor and integrity to it."

This quote, as ably as anything else, indicates how abominable Weisberg's writing is. Fortunately most of his work is schematic and consists of quotation and identification of source.

Weisberg pushes his case for a second assassin. He suggests no one, but he convinces me that the investigation should be continued, perhaps without FBI or Secret Service "assistance."