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America still asks: Who killed JFK?

WASHINGTON — By an overwhelming vote, 405,442 troubled Americans have delivered a dramatic mandate to President-elect George Bush. They want to reopen a chapter of history that the late President Lyndon Johnson tried to close 25 years ago.

Seldom in the history of telephone polling have so many Americans made toll calls at their own expense to express their sentiments. They don't accept the Warren Commission's verdict; they want Bush to determine who really murdered John F. Kennedy.

That was their response to our televised report on the Kennedy assassination. We invited viewers to vote whether to reopen the investigation or let the books stay closed on the crime that changed history.

They sent the next president a clear message: A resounding 405,422 callers voted to set the record straight; only 6,598 voted to accept the Warren Commission's findings. If the lid is lifted, it will embarrass some prominent people and powerful institutions. Here are some of those who want to continue the coverup:

Fidel Castro — If Mr. Bush will appoint an independent commission to review the case, we will present our compelling evidence that the Cuban premier triggered the Kennedy assassination in retaliation for attempts on his own life. Mr. Castro learned from the late Santo Trafficante, Mafia boss of the Cuban underworld, that the Central Intelligence Agency was sending Mafia hit teams to eliminate him. So Mr. Castro recruited Mr. Trafficante to turn the Mafia's guns against Mr. Kennedy.

The CIA — We can prove that the late CIA director Allen Dulles proposed the assassination of Mr. Castro as early as December 1959. The following year, the first of the Kennedy administration, he directed the CIA to strike a deal with the Mafia to liquidate Mr. Castro. Six hit teams disappeared before the CIA dis-

covered that Mr. Trafficante had double-crossed them and was feeding warnings to Mr. Castro. After Mr. Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas, the CIA reported to the new president, Lyndon Johnson, that the plot to kill Mr. Castro had backfired against Mr. Kennedy.

The Warren Commission — We can show that the Warren Commission covered up the terrible truth. Johnson — fearful that the truth would incite retaliation against Mr. Castro and precipitate a war — appointed Allen Dulles to the commission. As the instigator of the plot that backfired, he could be counted on to suppress the incriminating facts. The other distinguished commission members depended on the FBI for their information. The FBI was tightly controlled by its dictatorial director, the late J. Edgar Hoover, who for years was Mr. Johnson's neighbor.

The FBI — Documents in our possession prove that the FBI had learned enough about the CIA's attempts on Mr. Castro's life to suspect, at least, that the conspiracy had backfired against Mr. Kennedy. Not only were these suspicions withheld from the Warren Commission, but other incriminating evidence was suppressed.

The Kennedy family — We can demonstrate that the late Robert Kennedy, tragically, may have triggered his brother's assassination. As President Kennedy's personal watchdog over the CIA, Robert participated in the decision to use the Mafia to liquidate Mr. Castro. He was devastated by the CIA report that this decision had brought retaliation against his brother. This dreadful sequence is so painful for the family that they simply don't want it exhumed.

The Justice Department — In 1979, a congressional committee produced persuasive evidence that the Warren Commission's findings were wrong and that the Mafia was implicated in Mr. Kennedy's shooting. But the committee

ran out of funds and turned its evidence over to the Justice Department. Two months ago, the department tried to close the door on the investigation claiming that "no persuasive evidence can be identified to support the theory of a conspiracy."

We will present the "persuasive evidence" to an independent commission if Mr. Bush will appoint one.

Footnote: Those who missed the telephone poll can send us a postcard indicating where they stand. Mail it to Jack Anderson, P.O. Box 2300, Washington, D.C., 20013.

NEVADA DUMP — Nevadans may have to face the possibility of their state becoming home to the nation's sole nuclear waste dump. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 was written to ensure that no single state ends up as the repository of all nuclear waste. Last December, Congress told the Energy Department to look at Yucca Mountain in Nevada as the first dump site, with a maximum capacity of 70,000 metric tons, and scout other sites for a second dump. The DOE had projected that nuclear power plants would generate as much as 167,000 metric tons of radioactive waste by 2020. Now the General Accounting Office has reported that, with the decline in the popularity of nuclear power, the waste load may be closer to 105,000 metric tons. The government could build two dumps for \$31 billion or could store all the waste at Yucca Mountain for \$23 billion.

MINI-EDITORIAL — In the final days of his campaign, Michael Dukakis made a wild promise: that he would cut off all foreign aid to any country that didn't cooperate in the war on drugs. Mr. Dukakis wouldn't have been able to keep that promise. The complexities of our diplomatic ties are such that it isn't possible to take our football and go home when they won't let us be quarterback. Would that it were so easy.

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