

# Critics of Warren Report Meet to Ask New Study

By JOHN KIFNER  
Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Feb. 2—Encouraged by the disclosures of Watergate and of the Government's domestic counter-intelligence operations, conspiracy-theory assassination researchers and buffs from across the country gathered here this weekend to ask, "Who killed L.F.K.?"

They sought to start a national political movement to reopen official investigation into the slaying of President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The researchers, some of whom have spent years tracking minute details, recalled to the conference attendees that they had long worked alone and had been scoffed at for being "crazy."

"People used to say 'Where's your new evidence?'" said Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," a book critical of the Warren Commission report on the assassination. "I say where's wrong with the old evidence?"

Galloping Post Chief "What's changed in the past 11 years is the political climate of this country," he added. "A Gallup Poll shows 78 per cent of the American people don't believe the Warren Commission report. What's changed is the political climate—that we can now have members of the Congress, members of the Senate, who are open to the possibility of a new study."

The Warren Commission, said that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting as a lone gunman, assassinated President Kennedy, shot and killed the President from a sniper's nest. He was gunned down before live television cameras in a police station by Jack Ruby, a strip-

joint operator and police hanger-on.

The dramatic high point of the conference was the showing of a "bootleg" copy of what is known as "The Zapruder film." This is an amateur movie made by Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dressmaker which is the only known pictorial record of the moment Mr. Kennedy was shot. The film was purchased by Alvin Karpis and has never been officially released.

In the film, President Kennedy is seen slumping forward in the back seat of the convertible, his hands moving upward toward his neck.

Images on Film His wife, Jacqueline, is seen moving across Gov. John B. Connally of Texas, who is sitting slightly forward, reaching for the President. Suddenly, the President's head and the upper part of his body are snapped violently backward. Blood gushes about his face.

This moment of the film was marked by groans and gasps from the audience packed into the conference hall at Boston University. The assassination researchers contended that the short backward movement shown on the film is at odds with the Warren Commission finding that the President was killed with a single bullet fired from the rear.

The conference, sponsored by the Assassination Information Bureau, a group of young people working out of a Cambridge apartment, attracted about 1,000 people to the program of films, workshops and panel discussions.

Many in the predominantly young crowd held the micro-

phones of tape recorders to preserve the proceedings.

At the door, near a framed display of a can opener once owned by Jack Ruby, which, a sign noted, was "the work of a lone, crazed assassin."

What united the researchers was a strong belief that the Warren Commission report was a "cover-up" that did not fill the gaps of the assassination. Questions were also raised about the slayings of Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the slaying of the life of Gov. George Wallace of Alabama. Underlying the questions were various theories of shadow forces or "institutions" within American life, including, but not limited to, the Central Intelligence Agency.

But there were also disagreements over some of the researchers' methods, signs and conclusions. Privately, members of the sponsoring group said that they regarded some of the material as quite flimsy, but that they wanted all efforts represented and that the most important point was the questions that were raised.

Among the more controversial of these self-styled researchers were Mae Brussel, who has a syndicated radio show and writes for The Realist magazine, and Sherman Skolnick, who helped force the resignation of three Illinois judges.

Speaking in a relaxed, often her words tumbling over one another, the Cambridge-based Mrs. Brussel described the "right wing" conspirators of the 50 notebooks of evidence she had ever met. Lee Harvey Oswald and his conviction that

Shaman Sihan, convinced shooting Robert Kennedy, was smuggled into the country by the same CIA network as Martin Oswald under cover of the Greek Orthodox Church.

"Hoover was murdered," Mr. Stouffer, who is confined to a wheelchair, contended that the Chicago airplane crash in which the wife of E. Howard Hunt Jr. died had been caused by CIA sabotage. But, he added, a document which should have been written on asbestos" flattered from the plane, became stuck on a bush and came into his possession. It was, he said, a National Security Council memorandum of Nov. 27, 1960, "three years to the date before," saying that John F. Kennedy should be removed.

Mr. Lane was visibly upset by such charges, and in the closing session today, when petitions urging new investigations were distributed, warned against reaching conclusions beyond what could be substantiated. "We should not make statements that most respectable Americans cannot accept," he said. "We cannot require an acceptance of the unbelievable. It will set us back 20 years. It is their credibility that must be at stake, not ours."

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**Helms Order to Withhold Watergate Data Reported**  
**Former Subordinate in C.I.A. Also Told House Panel That Justice Department Was Denied Access to Key Witness**  
By SEYMOUR M. HERSH  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Cord Meyer, a former Justice Department attorney, testified today before a Senate subcommittee that he had been ordered to withhold information from the F.B.I. was denied access to key witnesses in the Watergate case.

The New York Times, through an editing error, incorrectly reported yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency was under a Justice Department subpoena in early August, 1972, when Richard Helms, then Director of Central Intelligence, ordered the agency to withhold information. The subpoena, ordering the CIA to produce all Watergate communications, was not in effect at the time.

**CORRECTION**

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