

Washington Merry-Go-Round

Why JFK Autopsy Was Kept Secret

West Germany's leading news magazine, Stern, is the first periodical in the world to publish the real explanation for one suppressed part of the investigation of President Kennedy's death.



Pearson Stern's senior editor Henri Nannen came to Washington to investigate the assassination, and talked with members of the Warren Commission. He is convinced that the Warren report is accurate and that no other assassin aside from Lee Harvey Oswald was involved.

But Stern explains the suppression of the autopsy report on the grounds that President Kennedy was suffering from Addison's disease and his family did not want it known. This would have been revealed in the autopsy report.

"The Kennedys had reason to keep silent," says Stern. "A sick Kennedy was killed in Dallas . . . Kennedy had Addison's disease. This is not totally unknown; Theodore Sorenson mentioned it in his 'Kennedy' biography.

"There is no medical reason why a man afflicted with this disease should not be President (since the illness can be controlled like diabetes), but

politically Kennedy's illness could become dangerous. Addison's illness—it sounds sinister. Few Americans know of it and its symptoms.

"For the Kennedys there was no doubt of the murderer—Lee Harvey Oswald." Continues Stern: "Already in 1964 Robert Kennedy told Egon Vacek, 'Don't you think I would do everything to get the real murderer if I had any doubts?'"

"But the Kennedys went one step further: in withholding the detailed autopsy-report of the Addison condition, which would mean that the illness and its degree wa to be kept a secret. This intent of secrecy seems to be shown also through the fact that the Kennedys hid the X-days, even from the Warren Commission . . . Dr. A. J. McSweeney confirms that X-rays could have revealed the Addison's disease.

"This would also explain the lack of date on the Warren Commission autopsy report. This report was in effect changed so that it contained no mention of the President's illness.

"The suppression of the Addison's disease in the autopsy report explains also the attitude of the doctor who requested the inclusion in the Warren Report of the fact that he destroyed his notes

. . . otherwise hundreds of people would have been faced with lying under oath, which would have been deplorable."

Attention Tax Agents!

Tips to Internal Revenue: Check on Schick Safety Razors, a division of Eversharp, to see whether Patrick J. Frawley Jr., chairman, charges off as legitimate advertising the Sunday supplement published in California Nov. 6, urging California voters to vote for Proposition 16. The Sunday supplement was billed as "a political advertisement," and therefore is not tax deductible . . . In Montgomery County, Md., you will find that Farm Bureau president George Lechluder wrote a potent political letter just before the election urging the defeat of Prof. Royce Hanson as Democratic Congressman. The Farm Bureau has a tax exemption . . . Also take a look at the vigorous political activities of Stefan T. Possony, sparkplug of the Hoover Library in Leland Stanford University, which also enjoys tax exemption on the basis of being non-political.

Constitution Hall, over which a famous controversy was waged when the Daughters of the American Revolution barred singer Marian Anderson, is now the scene of a different kind of controversy.

This time the Baptist Minis-

ters Conference, many of its members Negroes, is boycotting Constitution Hall because Duke Ellington, famed Negro musician, is playing there tonight (Dec. 5) and the Baptists claim his music is not "sacred."

The Duke is playing under the auspices of the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association, which is raising money for the Children's Hospital, Big Brothers and the Ionia Whipper Home. However, elder Negro leaders among the Baptists have risen up in wrath against a Duke Ellington concert which claims to be religious.

"He is a nightclub showman," they contend. Younger churchmen, both Baptists and of other denominations, claim the boycott against Ellington is because older church leaders are unwilling to meet the problems of the day.

"They are leading their people back to Uncle Tomism," says Rev. David Eaton, the Methodist leader.

The type of music Ellington plays, young churchmen contend, has nothing to do with Baptist opposition. With or without the Baptists, the Duke Ellington concert is going ahead. The Daughters of the American Revolution, who long ago integrated Constitution Hall, are sitting on the sidelines.