

'Bigger History' Is Called For

To the editor of The Transcript:
"You lie and I'll swear to it!"
— thus goes the old saw which aptly describes the difficulties of digging out the truth when the perpetrator of a deed and a witness or accessory are in cahoots, or when a government is obliged to investigate itself!

Would this axiom sadly apply if the same agents of the government who investigated the Kennedy assassination, the FBI and the Warren Commission, were required to re-open their inquiry? For a most distinguished voice, emanating from the Establishment itself, has now been added to the heretofore uninfluential chorus of humble lawyers, authors, and journalists demanding that the investigation be reopened.

Life magazine last week in a cover spread and editorial opined that there was "reasonable — and disturbing — doubt" that Oswald had acted alone in the assassination. Calling for a new official inquiry, the editorial said: "One conclusion is inescapable: the national interest deserves resolution of the doubts." Life based its contention on a new examination by Gen. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas of the new famous Zapruder film of the shooting. The Governor disagreed once again with one of the key Warren Commission conclusions — that he and Kennedy had both been hit by a single bullet.

But the aforementioned lying and swearing danger must be borne in mind in the wake of the furor which the Life position is bound to raise. Is there any guarantee that a governmental

body which has done incredibly sloppy or abbreviated work, or even lied to the American people would own up to the error implicit in any reopening? Would not a second lie or "whitewash" be in order to confirm the first one? Is it not a natural human trait to preserve one's own integrity by covering up the tracks.

This is of course, why an independent or Congressional investigation in the first place was called for by the situation.

As Life does, I would like to call for the reopening of the whole case and not just the issuance of a supplemental report by the Warren Commission, based on the autopsy photos, as naively urged in some quarters. This time the investigation must be conducted either by Congress itself or by a new investigating commission made up of leading faculty members at universities, medical schools and experts in various fields. The neglected witnesses must be subpoenaed and the relevant evidence examined.

To answer those who like Sen. Philip A. Hart, Democrat of Michigan, would oppose this Congressional investigation, we can do no better than to quote Gov. Connally who so well stated the case for the propriety of reopening: "History is bigger than anyone's feelings."

Right now there is a growing suspicion that the Warren Report is nothing more than an elaborate psychological biography of Lee Harvey Oswald and what some of the evidence suggests he may have done on Nov. 22, 1963. This is by definition no more than a well-documented myth, conceived and hatched in but baby time to suit President Johnson's 1964 political election schedule. Dissent, democracy and truth cry out for a mere adult, mature, a "bigger history" than we have gotten so far.

God bless John Connally. And the victim of that tragic day in Dallas, if he knew of the Governor's recent actions, would be adding still another portrait to his gallery of "profiles in courage."

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