

Professor Feels Oswald Had a Double

NEW YORK, July 17 (AP) — A California educator said today that an analysis of the Warren Commission report and two new books on the Kennedy assassination provide "compelling" substantiation of the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

Writing in the New York Review of Books, Prof. Richard H. Popkin of the University of California at San Diego contended the Commission's conclusion that Oswald was a loner is not consistent with much of the material in its 26-volume report on the late President's assassination. The professor demanded that the investigation be reopened.

Popkin's own theory is that a man who looked like Oswald and often posed as Oswald was the actual assassin, while Oswald was used to create the illusion that a lonely, alienated man with pro-Castro leanings was the sole perpetrator of the crime.

The educator used a review of Edward J. Epstein's "Inquest" and Harold Weisberg's "Whitewash," both of which take issue with the Warren report as a forum for his own speculation.

Popkin made it clear that he does not believe Oswald was sincere in his pro-Castro activities and that he could have been involved with either right or left wing conspirators.

- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale
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- Sullivan
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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What do we know of Popkin?

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- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Washington Evening Star _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- New York World Journal _____
- New York World Journal Tribune _____
- The Baltimore Sun _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

Date _____

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Deleted from report Richard H. Popkin
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Tom Donnelly Book Marks

The Little Assassin and How He Grew

By TOM DONNELLY

"INQUEST: THE WARREN COMMISSION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUTH" by Edward Jay Epstein (Viking). Mr. Epstein's critique of the Warren Commission and the Warren Report has been applauded and booted by the early evaluators, with the boos just possibly outnumbering the applauders.

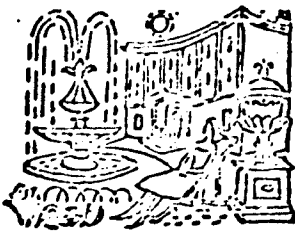
Richard Rovere, who has provided the book with an introduction, says Mr. Epstein, a scholar, has shamed journalists by doing a job journalists should have done: he has performed a public service by finding "the news." (For one thing, Mr. Epstein has discovered that the Commission's investigation had its superficial aspects.)

Newsweek, Time, and Look have decided Mr. Epstein's report has its superficial aspects.

Mr. Epstein has grave doubts about the theory that President John F. Kennedy and Governor John Connally were hit by a single bullet. (To support his own theory that there were TWO assassins, Mr. Epstein cites early FBI reports on Kennedy's wounds; the FBI has explained that those reports were written in a hurry, were incomplete, and were turned in before the autopsy was completed.)

The New Republic, greatly impressed by Mr. Epstein's effort, says "The Warren Report may now have been shot to death and require a full autopsy."

My own approach to the Epstein report is going to be superficial, no doubt because I have read, thru the years, so many "true crime" books explaining that the man or woman named as the killer (by either a court of law or the court of public opinion) didn't really do it, or wasn't alone in the plot. Lizzie Borden, for instance, didn't kill her father and step-mother. It was the Irish maid who did it. Clocks and charts and measurements and bannisters and the temperature in Fall River are cited to show that Lizzie couldn't have gotten the axe up out of the cellar before noon, whereas the Irish maid was probably down there that morning because it was the coolest part of the house and the maid had been working in the kitchen all summer sun.



Just as authors are free to reconstruct crimes of less than crucial importance (pointing up the unanswered questions that invariably attend any murder investigation), authors are free to make their own patterns out of the problems and puzzles involved in the assassination of a president.

Mr. Epstein doesn't say Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent. He says "There is a strong case that Oswald could not have acted alone." There must have been a second assassin. Noting that there were "three established shots," Mr. Epstein says that a bystander was hit by a fragment which might have come from a fourth shot. (Tho it might also have come from one of the three established shots.) Of course, "a fourth shot in itself would not indicate that a second assassin was at work but . . ."

And how about those witnesses who thought the shots came from "a grassy knoll"?

"If there was no evidence of more than one assassin," says Mr. Epstein, "there was also no evidence that precluded the possibility." (As far as I know, there wasn't any evidence that precluded the possibility of a third, fourth or fifth assassin.)

Mr. Epstein says the Commission "had not made it clear that very substantial evidence indicated the presence of a second assassin, it would have opened Pandora's box of doubts and suspicions." For me, Mr. Epstein's "Inquest" falls apart because I can't begin to visualize how a second assassin fitted into the scheme. Mr. Epstein can't either, apparently. He mostly talks about possible fourth bullets and so on. That's very substantial evidence?

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- People's World _____

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57 JUL 19 1966

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The attached newspaper was sent to the Director from "The New York Review, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y."

Reference is made to the Director on page 16, and numerous references are made to the FBI throughout the article, "The Second Oswald: The Case for a Conspiracy Theory," which appears on pages 11 through 22.

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The New York Review of Books

250 West Fifty-Seventh Street
New York City, New York 10019
PLaza 7-8070

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- Miss Gandy

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 18

Writing in the new issue of The New York Review of Books, Professor Richard H. Popkin presents the first systematic theory suggesting how Oswald may have conspired with others to assassinate the President.

Professor Popkin, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, writes: "The evidence seems to me compelling that there was a second Oswald, that his presence was being forced on people's notice, and that he played a role on November 22, 1963."

Professor Popkin's article is based on evidence that appears in the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission Report, but was neglected by the Commission itself, as well as on new evidence that has appeared in recent weeks. He shows, for example, that on September 21, 1964, the Commission received a potentially significant report from the FBI concerning a man "similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald," but that "in the mad rush to publish" nothing was done by the Commission to follow up this report.

"One would have expected," he writes, "that if the Commission had really been interested in clearing up all of the questions and rumors about the case it would have stopped everything, located this man..., found out if he had been masquerading as Oswald, and, if so, why... The public should demand that the Commission or FBI tell us whether this turned out to be significant..."

Professor Popkin also points out that the Commission's theory that the President and Governor Connally of Texas were wounded by a single bullet passing through the President's neck is contradicted by two FBI reports recently published for the first time in Edward Jay Epstein's Inquest (Viking Press). The FBI reports, he points out, indicate that Kennedy was shot in the back, not the neck. But the Commission never examined photographs of the body taken during the autopsy in order to ascertain the truth.

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"If Kennedy was shot in the back," he writes, "...then it seems unlikely that anything can redeem a one-assassin theory...the Commission's Report made no attempt to resolve the contradiction between the FBI reports and the autopsy. The question whether the FBI reports were accurate can only be answered if the photographs of the autopsy and the X-rays are made available for examination by responsible and independent observers, if not by the public at large. Since the Commission's theory of a single assassin depends heavily on this point, the photos and X-rays should be made available immediately."

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

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