

MANCHESTER:

Needed: A New Warren Report

THE AWFUL BLEND of outrage and patriotism that shook the country in the months after the assassination [of President Kennedy] has dissipated. . . . The fear that the institutions of American government would topple before the truth is no longer lively. . . . It should be possible now to see the thing steadily and see much more of the whole.

Probably there was not (as the new President Johnson was the first to fear) a Cuban or right-wing plot against the American executive branch. . . . Perhaps there was no conspiracy at all. . . . Perhaps Oswald's incredible marksmanship can be made credible. Perhaps some seer can be found to explain the inexplicable Tippit episode. . . . Perhaps it was merely a gruesome coincidence that the only two reporters who went to Ruby's flat just after he shot Oswald were murdered, one in Dallas, one by a police officer in California. Perhaps there was no other assassin.

The Warren Commission fulfilled its second aim: to dispel a welter of alarming rumors and protect the republic. It signally failed in its first aim: "to ascertain, evaluate, and report on" the truth deducible from the facts. Sooner or later, it will have to be done. . . .

—Alistair Cooke in the
Manchester Guardian Weekly.