By James R. Phelan

Because of the difficulty of "proving negatives" —proving that something did not occur—"the pos-sibility of others being involved with either Oswald or Ruby cannot be established categorically," wrota the Warren Commission, "but if there is any such evidence it has been beyond the reach of all the investigative agencies and resources of the United States and has not come to the attention of this Commission " unission

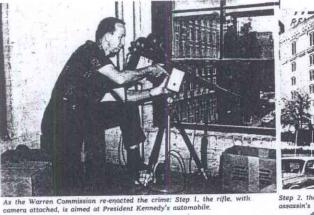
Yet today, 12 years after the assassination of President Kennedy, public-opinion polts indicate that the great majority of the American people-two-thirds or even more-reject the commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone as-sassins. Since the alternative is two or more as-sassins, most Americans have apparently come to believe what the Warren Commission said it could not establish_that John F. Kennedv's life was not establish-that John F. Kennedy's life was snuffed out by a conspiracy.

snuffed out by a conspiracy. This shift in public opinion is not the result of any hard new evidence. No other gunmen fitting in Dealey Plaza have been identified or accused. No guns besides Oswald's Mannicher-Car-cano have been tied to the murder. No bullets besides those from Oswald's rifle have been uncov-ered and linked ballistically to the assassination. There have been no confessions of complicity. In the interle increase where a person was charged as a There have been no contessions or complicity, in the single instance where a person was charged as a conspirator against Kennedy, the case proved a fiasco and collapsed in a heap of rubble. In spite of all this, the will to disbelieve the Warren Report has spread from a small group of conspiracy buffs into the American mainstream.

has spread from a small group of conspiracy buffs into the American mainstream. In the past year or so, a fresh outpouring of books and articles attacking the Warren Report has created on the surge of post-Watergate distruct of any Government-endorsed finding. Complaining to the Warren Commission "failed to adequately explain various situations which possibly contra-house of the California Legislature, by a vote of 47 to 1, has approved a resolution urging that the assassination be re-examined by an independent agency. In the House of Representatives, Henry Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, and Thomas Down-ing Democrat of Virginia, have introduced resolu-tions seeking a new investigation. In the Senate, telligence Activities, Republican Richard Schweiker orade have begun looking into there possible hypo-theses—that Kennedy was killed in a foreign Com-wist piot, that he was the victim of a domestic ingti-tarto. Cubans. "The only thing Im certain about," Schweiker said, "is that we don't know the trut about the Kennedy assassination."

truth about the Kennedy assassination." In appealing to the House for support for his resolution, Representative Gonzalez declared, "We must settle once and for all, in the interest of the welfare of our country and the future of its people, the truth of what happened at Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and what Lee Harvey Oswald carried to his grave. ... There are many more disquieting questions to be resolved ... but they must be answered with calmness, objectivity, dispassion and fairness." These are admirable words. Unfortunately, they fly in the face of a harsh reality. The Kleground in which calmness, objectivity, dispassion and fairness were the ear-liest casualities.

9







Step 2, the path of the min's bullets.

Bullet hole in

Kennedy's jacket.

Detectives reconstruct the Warren Commission's hypothesis that Kennedy, in the back seat, and Connally, in front of him, were hit by the same bullet.

Dack seat, and contaily, in front of him, were fit by observed in a sudden eruption of chaos, confu-sion and horror, leaving a legacy of wildly con-tradictory accounts. Felix Frankfurter once observed that the greatest single source of miscarriage of justice is eyewitness testimony. That people saw Oswald in various places that would indicate his innocence, or remembered other men running with guns, or heard six shots instead of three, or felt bullets whistle past them from directions other than the Texas Book Depository— these were the expectable product of human fraility. The case was muddled by inspt Dailas law-enforce-ment work, and enormously complicated by the of Oswald by Jack Ruby. The swift sequence of three murders, all lacking clear motive, and the circumstantial nature of the evidence against Os-wald in the President's death, laid down a bothouse bed for the cultivation of doubt and conjecture. The Warren Commission, which sat from Dec.

The Warren Commission, which and competitive 5, 1963, to Sept. 24, 1964, rested its case against Oswald on these principal points: (1) The consensus of witnesses was that three both wares find at the Beneficient case as in moved

shots were fired at the President's car as it moved

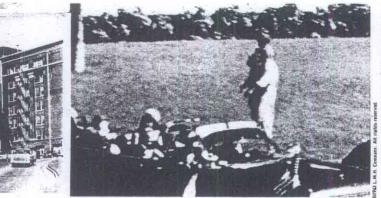
slowly along Eim Street, with John Kennedy sit-ting in the back and Gov. John Contally sitting on the jump scat in front of him.

(2) Three empty cartridge cases were found on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository, where Oswald worked, and where he was on duty

the sixth floor of the texts book behavior, where Oswald worked, and where he was on duly at the time of the assassination. (3) Ballistic tests showed that these cartridge cases were fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle ordered by Oswald, in his hardwriting, from a Chicago mail-order firm under the allas of A. J. Hiddl. The rifle had been shipped to a post-office box rented by Oswald and was found on the sixth floor of the Book Depository after the assassina-tion. In Oswald's possession when he was arrested was an identification card in the name of Hidell, with the signature in Oswald's handwriting. (4) Ballistic tests of two built fragments rece ered from the Kennedy car, and of a nearly who built recovered from a stretcher at Parkland ' pital, where Kennedy and the wounded Gov Connally had been taken, determined that were fired from Oswald's rifle. (5) The three doctors who performer

(5) The three doctors who performe topsy on Kennedy testified that the two

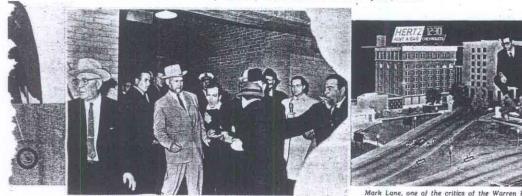
ń 4 . -Critics of the Warren Report have produced no hard new evidence, but their irr





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The way it happened: A movie taken by a bystander shows John Kennedy, (with Jacqueline heside him and Governor Connally in front of him) at the instant he was hit by the first shot.



Lee Harvey Oswald is killed by Jack Ruhy in a Dallas police station, as millions watch on TV. This is a picture of the murder taken by a news photographer.

hit him came from behind and above him-from the direction of the Book Depository,

(6) A winces on the Book Depository.
(6) A winces on the Street saw a gunman fire the third and last shot from a sixth-floor window of the Book Depository, and two newsmen saw a rifle being withdrawn at the same window.
(7) A Book Depository worker on the fifth floor heard the cartridges drop on the floor above him after the shots were fired.
(8) Oswald had been working on the sixth floor the Book Depository and mixes after the as.

of the Book Depository, and minutes after the as-sassination he left the building without telling anyone.

(9) Oswald went by bus and taxl to his room, and then left hurriedly with a pistol, which had een ordered from another mail-order firm in the ime of Hidell, in Oswald's handwriting, and had

n delivered to Oswald's post-office box. '0) Witnesses saw Oswald stopped by police 'r Tippit sbortly afterward—why remains a

Prippit shorting atterward—why remains a ery to this day—and they identified Oswald as 'n who shot the policeman and fled, shucking artridge shells as he went. The cartridge "retrieved, and were identified by ballistic ring been fired from Oswald's handgun.

(11) Oswald was tracked by a series of witnesses to the Texas Theater, where he was arrested with the handgurf in his possession.

The Warren Commission distilled the case into an 888-page report. Then, in what it viewed as an act of candor, the commission published 26 volumes of testimony, affidavits and exhibits, it was from these 26 volumes that the material for the early attacks on the Warren Report were largely mined.

attacks on the Warren Report were largely mined. As experienced lawyers, the commission staff had weighed the contradictions between witnesses and the other anomalies in this vast, disorganized mass, and had discarded some accounts because of the observed demeanor of witnesses or the thrust of other evidence. But to the early critics, few of whom were trained criminologists or experienced lawyers, the discovery of some material that did not support the summary of the one-volume War-ren Report came as evidence of a biased or imper-lect investigation. Much of the "research" of the early critics was the work of a dedicated group of women calling themselves the "Housewives Under-ground," who combed the 28 volumes for what they ground," who combed the 26 volumes for what they interpreted as "suppressed evidence" and who traded their findings in indignant chain letters.

Mark Lane, one of the critics of the Warren Report, looks over a model of the assassination scene.

This soon led to an uglier charge-that the Warren Commission had deliberately concealed some unpalatable truths. Harold Weisberg, a Mary-land farmer, published four books at his own expense-"Whitewash I" to "Whitewash IV"-angrily impugning the motives of the commission angrity impugning the motives of the commission and its staff, as well as of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secret Service, the Dallas police and anyone who had a good word for the Warren Report. "White-wash V" is now in preparation.

Others took up the cry. Their assaults came at a time when the public was already becoming suspicious of Government veracity, in view of disclosures of official deception about the Vietnam war. The thrust of this new wave of criticism was that the Warren Commission had presented only incriminating evidence against Oswald, while closing its eyes to evidence (Continued on Page 109)

James R. Phelan is a magazine writer who has been following the Kennedy assassination controversy for the past eight years.

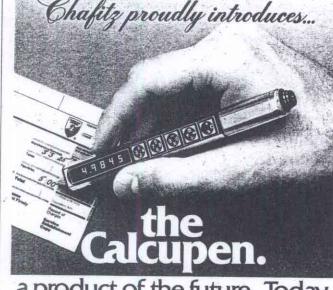




pointing to his innocence. In 1967, the critics found a public official willing to arm their suspicions with subpoena power—New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Largely as the result of ading Weisberg's first reading first reading Weisberg's first "Whitewash" volume, Garrison launched his own re-investi-gation. After four months of part-time sleuthing, he an-nounced that he had un-covered a plot to kill Kennedy, that he knew the people involved, and that he would ar-rest and convict them and thus legally destroy the "greatest fraud in history." Echoing Weisberg, Garrison claimed that Oswald had not fired at anyone on Nov. 22, 1963. This claim was based on a paraffin test, made by the Dallas police after Os-wald's arrest, which had not shown any powder marks on Oswald's cheek. What Weis-Oswald's cheek, what weis-berg and Garrison chose to ignore was that both the F.B.I. and an international seminar of 50 criminologists conducted by Interpol had seminar of 50 criminologists conducted by Interpol had found the paraffin test so faulty as to be useless even as a guide for investigators. . Some of the foremost lu-

minaries among the Warren critics flocked to Garrison's banner. They included Mark Lane, author of the book "Rush to Judgment," who tor's adviser; Weisberg, who boasted of his role as Garriboasted of his role as Garri-son's mentor, Prof. Richard Popkin, author of "The Second Oswald," who assert-ed his faith in Garrison in a lengthy article in The New York Review of Books, and William William Turner, a former F.B.I. agent, who turned out a series of pro-Garrison articles for Ramparts magazine They followed Garrison on his erratic course for two years while he brought financial ruin to a retired New Orleans businessman, Clay Shaw, whom he charged with con-spiring to kill John Kennedy. In pretrial magazine, television and radio interviews, Garrison made a series of claims that changed from Garrison made a series of claims that changed from month to month. He first asserted that Kennedy had been slain by a cabal of homosexuals in a "thrill kill-ion" algorithm to the state of the second ing" similar to the Loeb and Leopold murder of Bobby Franks. He soon abandoned that solution in favor of a



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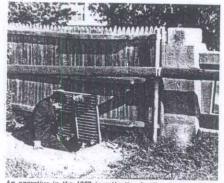
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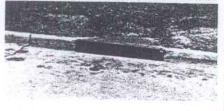


109

P.O. Box 2188, Dept. Rockville, Md. 20852 zine /No ther 23, 1975



An operative in the 1967 investigation by Jim Garrison, then New Orleans District Attorney, enters a sever complex to support one of Garrison's theories: that the shot that killed Kennedy was fired from a sever opening, below, on Elm Street.



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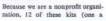
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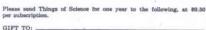
Mail to: THINGS OF SCIENCE, Departm 201 W. Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302 plot by anti-Castro Cubans incensed at Kennedy over his mismanagement of the Bay of Pigs invasion. The web of the conspiracy he described grew steadily to include F.B.I. agents, the Dallas police, ultrarightist paramilitary Minutemen, Texas oil millionaires, elements of the defense establishment, White Russian émigrée, Jack Ruby, and a former Dallas song-and-dance man who had later taken his act to Las Vegas to covertly tape-record the entertainer's act in search of incriminating evidence.

At one point, Garrison asserted that Kennedy was assaasinated "by a precision guerrilla team of at least seven men." At another time, he said the fatal shot had been fired by a man who had wormed his way through a sever pipe and had fired from a curb grating. He asserted flatty that this motley crew was orchestrated by the C.I.A. When he finally took Shaw to trial in 1969, he jury acquitted Shaw on its as the second second second team of the second second second team of the second seco

The Garrison fizzle dampened the Warren Commission critics for four of five years. Yet many of them remained convinced that the New Orleans procedure and the new Orright, trail and had been cunningly nudged into a ditch by powerful hidden forces. The latest spate of books and magazine articles on the J.F.K. assassination owes a good deal to the cache of leads and theories he left behind. In fact, only last month, Mark Lane brought Garrison out from obscurity and presented bim at a "first national conference" on the Kennedy assassination at the University of Hartford. Garrison told the convention that the C.I.A. has destroyed democracy in the United States and replaced it with a Fasciat police state. He was given a

resident Kennedy was struck twice -by a bullet that went through his bullet that his head and killed him. A short movie strip capturing the fatal shot, and the events immediately before and after, was made by a bystander named Abrahas provided the Warren Commission critics with their best recruiting tool. The key frames ahow the top of the President's head being blown off. The film was purchased by Life magazine and was





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made available to the Warren Commission. In recent years, sharp copies of it have been acquired by the critics and shown widely around the country.

Allowin where around the country. As Kennedy is hit by the fatal shot, his head moves briefly forward — and then is slammed sharply back and to the left. To the critics, this is "indisputable evidence" that this shot, which killed the President, came from the right front-mot, like the first shot, from the Texas Book Depository behind him. That, so the argument goes, would mean that there were two guns firing. And two guns imply a conspiracy. To the front and right of the President there was a

the President there was a grassy knoll, and the critics cite material culled from the Warren Report to bolster their argument that that was where the fatal shot came from. One witness testified that he saw a "puff of smoke" come from the trees on the knoll. Others saw two motorcycle officers jump the curb and race up the knoll as though in pursuit. A substantial number of wit-nesses testified that the gunnesses testified that the gun-fire sounded as though it came from the direction of the knoll. If, say the critics, the laws of physics have not been repealed by the Warren Commission, and if the com-mission, and if the com-mission, and if the com-mission, and if the com-mission hasn't moved the Book Depository, then Pres-ident Kennedy was shot in the head from the front right head from the front right —by someone other than Os-waid. The Zannuder, film has

The Zapruder film has won over many of its viewers, especially among college audiences. Representative Downing, according to press reports, introduced his resolu-tion for a new investigation after his son was persuaded that the film invalidated the lone - assassin finding. Yet there are other possible expla-nations for the backward head movement that the believers in the conspiracy theory never mention. The movement could have been a neuromuscular spasm triggered by the head wound. Since Kennedy was trussed in a corsetlike device trussed in a corsetlike device for his injured back, a spasm that straightened his legs could have driven his head backward with even greater force than otherwise. In any event, there is hard pri-mary evidence that renders the Zapruder film irrelevant to the point at issue. During the vears that the

to the point at issue. During the years that the autopsy material was seques-tered by the Kennedy family, the nature of the President's wounds was the subject of rumor-mongering and specu-(Continued on Page 120)

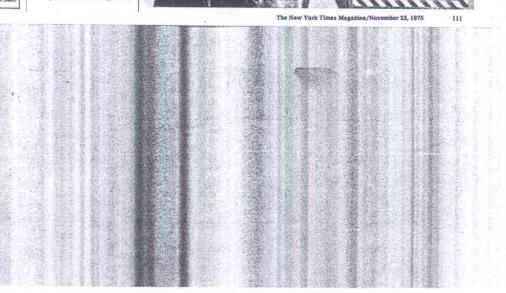


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hower. As a matter of fact, President Roosevelt was born in a house not far away, for this was the era when for this was the era when Gramercy Park, like the lower Fifth Avenue area generally, was the part of town that counted. These were the days when front and back doormen bowed guests inside, footmen were waiting to light the way and maid service was a 24-hour convenience.

Now the club tries to man-Now the club tries to man-age without even a superin-tendent—just an electrician, a plumber and a porter, backed up by a diligent house committee. And while the din-ing room still functions (in-deed, resident members are each expected to take at least \$35 worth of meals there monthly) it is a rare member who eats there every night. Still, the club can say it is "in the black."

"We've had our trials and tribulations," reflected Rich-ard Seyffert, who teaches at the Art Students League and has lived in the N.A.C. since

There is

something in the

atmosphere

house that

ill-considered

improvements.

1952. He recalled that there had been a time before the Third Avenue EI was torn

down and after the gradual relocation of the affluent to the Upper East Side when the neighborhood suffered

the neighborhood suffered something of a decline. Things have been steadily changing for the better, however, and, like his fellow residents, Mr. Seyffert wouldn't live any-where else. It isn't simply

being in a quiet, solid building or having your own key to your own private Gramercy

inhibits

of a 130-year-old

For people who are almost (but not quite) satisfied with their house plants...and can't figure out what they're doing wrong:

- If your geraniums refuse to bloom in winter no matter what you do, see page 61.
- How to grow an indoor tree under artificial light if you hate fluorescents (page 173).

• For people who keep their flowering plants in a sun-filled south window: Six plants that shouldn't be there.

· Five great plants you can grow in really dim light.

The New York Times **Book of House Plants**

By Joan Lee Faust

Gardening Editor of The Times

A FLOWERING PLANT THAT BLOOMS BEST IN THE BATHROOM. Page 110.

BEST IN THE BATHROOM. Page 110. If you've ever failed with an easy house plant and wondered why (or succeeded effortlessily with a plant that other people find hard to grow indoors—and found yourself just as mys-tified) this book can tell you what happened. Some of the things it explains are: 1. Rules worth breaking: Next time people tell you to water an African violet (or anything else) from the bottom, show them page 13. ⁹ What was can be more from your plants. In-

5. FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE PLANTS BUT and needs help, or is just enjoying a perfectly HAVENT THE TIME OR PATIENCE TO normal rest period. FUSS WITH THEM How to keep plants in fine condition for two months without watering (pages 43-45).

FUSS WITH THEM. How to keep plants in fine condition for two months without watering (pages 43-45). 6. Plants you should have tried long ago. For instance, a bouse plant whose flowers look like petunias and bloom most of the year (page 110) and a cactu that looks marvelous in a hanging basket. (A coctus? See page 53). 7. How to known the state of the state with the state of the state stat

 petunias and bloom most of the year (page 10)
 Lasy recipes for the three kinds of potting in eacded for the three kinds of potting in a close the three kinds of potting backet. (A cachus? See page 33).

 7. How to know when you're licked. A mercipation in the three kinds of bouse plants. Also, insect pests that can be at your mercy. Also in second plants and a Glossary of peculiar botanical terms. Also, insect pests that can be at your mercy. Also insect pests that can be at your mercy. Also insect pests that can be at your mercy. Also insect pests that can be at your mercy. BORWN SPOTS ON LEAVES. SEE PAGE 49 FOR WHY AND WHAT TO DO, BROWN EDCES? THE TROUBLE IS DIFFERENT AND S0 IS THE CURE.

 The New York Times Book of House Plants at wood to a lot of things you never knew you how to do a lot of things you never knew you could—like turning an ordinary lant and in a clost tree shaped "standard" that would cost lots of money at a nursery (and how to do a lot better at the things you ve been doing all along like watering, potting, feeding, ranspinsing, and training you you have to to try this with, page 18).



BOOK .

OF HOUSE

PLANTS

from the bottom, show them page 13.
 What you can learn from your plants. Including what the leaves of a plant you are about 105 plants are covered in detail, explaining to buy can tell you about how much watering and how often (page 3).
 Things you may be doing right without and soil and feeding and temperature and huw much you can get away with when you can ty provide the ideal conditions. Other probay plant tod, but it can also be hurt. How to tell whether a plant is in trouble tell the difference? See page 48.

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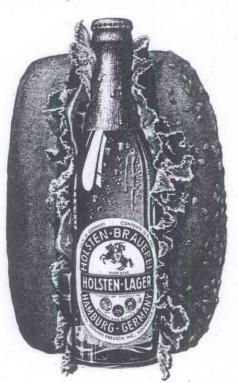
The New York Times Magazine/November 23, 1975







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The Warren panel, says one of its attorneys, helped foster 'all those wild stories' by agreeing to the sequestering of the autopsy data.

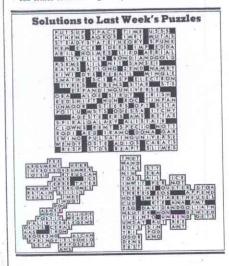
Continued from Page 111

lation; much was made of the fact that no one on the Warren Commission or its staff had actually viewed the autopsy material, Joseph Ball, the attorney who headed the staff ream that put together the case against Oswald, says Chief Justice Earl Warren ac-ceded to the sequestering of the X-rays and photographs out of concern for the sensibil-tiles of the Kennedy family and against the bitter opposiand against the bitter opposi-tion of the staff lawyers, "All those wild stories that circution of the staff lawyers, "All https://www.staff. lated in the mid-1960's were finally got Burke Marshall, who was given control of kennedy family, to make the autopsy material by the kennedy family, to make the autopsy material by the kennedy family, to make here available at the National Archives for inspection by midical experts." The X-rays president's wounds, taken archives for inspection by midical experts." The X-rays president's wounds, taken here available at the National Archives for inspection by midical experts." The X-rays president's wounds, taken here available at the National president's wounds, taken here available at the National Archives during the subpsy. Were here available at the National president with the finding of the original three-man autop-subpsy. The article continue to gain The critics continue to gain

converts by showing the Zapruder film, without mentioning the autopsy reviews. One of them, Mark Lane, has taken account of the review

Unle of them, have basis basis to be trained account of the review findings, and has attempted to counter them by citing a later comment by one of the 12 physicians — Dr. Cyril Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pa. — Dr. Wecht had long been known as a critic of the Warren Commission and an opponent of the single-gunnan finding. Nonetheless, after viewing the autopsy material, he wrote: "So far as the available medical evidence shows, all shots were fired from the rear. No subport cam be found for theories which postulate all shots were inter from the rear. No support can be found for theories which postulate gummen to the front or right-front of the Presidential car. The medical evidence indi-cates that the President's back was hit by one bullet and that his head was hit by one other bullet only." Since filing his original finding, however, Dr. Wecht has written a letter to a Mark Lane fan saying, "The Zapu-der film and other evidence is not inconsistent with a shot from the side, Please differen-tiate this with a shot fired from the front." Although all the other ex-perts have stood firm in their

perts have stood firm in their





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1 testimony, Dr. Wecht's after-thought has been added to the critics' anthology-along with grainy blowups of photo-graphs purporting to show a gumman on the "grassy knoli," lists of witnesses who heard gunfire from that direction, and the Zapruder film's "in-disputable evidence" of a con-spiracy.

part from the grassy knoll, the most hotly argued aspect of the Kennedy assassination deals with the so-called "single-bullet theory." This is the postulate that the bullet that pierced the President's neck went on to pierce Governor went on to pierce Governor Connally's chest, go through his right wrist and enter his left thigh—and then to fall out onto Connally's stretcher at the Parkland Hospital, having retained its near-pristine shape and weight. The questions raised by this postulate are: How did the bullet fall out of the final wound it inflicted, and why wasn't it shattered or at least distorted after so many im-pacts during its flight? These questions have provided a popacts during its fight? These questions have provided a po-tent weapon for assaults on the report's credibility. The "magic bullet," as the critics have labeled it, is their Ex-bibit a

To sort out the issues involved, it is necessary to trace this aspect of the Warren investigation.

In the early days of the inquiry, it was believed that Oswald had scored three hits with three shots. The first, bullet, the investigators ad-duced, plerced the President's meth. neck. The second, they thought, wounded Connally; the Governor testified that he heard the first shot, turned he heard the first shot, turned to look, and then, while turn-ing again to look over the other shoulder, felt himself hit in the back. The third bullet struck the President's Then the investigators ran

into trouble. The bullet that shattered

The bullet that shattered the President's head frag-mented, and pieces of a bullet were found in the car. The bullet that wounded Connally was, presumably, the one found in Parkland Hospital. Governor Connally had been removed from his stretcher; this stretcher stood next to another one in a corrinext to another one in a corrinext to another one in a corri-dor; a hospital orderly remem-bers shoving one of the two stretchers against the wall, and the bullet fell out. The three autopsy doctors agreed

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And, naturally it is an

And, naturally it is an outstanding timepiece Herniter's sparked wotali and to expense with the works of the watch. And of course, they abouddr. The Becaus you will proudly want to watch its Because have the output of a new set of the Because and you will want the pars to no to your son. The watch is powered by the bet Sets T7-pwel movement that money can buy. The works are calaiment by incusion, which mans the watch just about as shockforoof as anything can bu. The anti-magnetic, of course. There is a newep-second have. We didn't have that in my day, and it is montelling estra-special in a pocket watch even today.

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The New York Times Magazine/November 23, 1975

- State Let Bahlsen do your holiday baking.

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'The single-bullet theory has been a sort of Rorschach ink blot in which different examiners seem to see what they wish to find.'

that this one bullet could have

caused all his wounds. But where was the bullet that pierced the President's neck? Since it had pierced only tissue, it would have exited at high speed, on a downward course, and presimably would have caused severe damage to the interior of the car. No such damage was found during an inch-byinch examination of the carmet no bullet.

and no bullet. Moreover, tests of the Oswald rifle determined that after a gunman fired one shot, he would require a minimum of 2.25 seconds to get off the next shot. Yet analysis of the Zapruder film indicated that Kennedy's neck and Connally's back were struck aimost simultaneously, within too brief an interval for a lone gunman to fire two shots from that rifle. But to theorize that there were two gummen iring from the rear would be to postulate something for which the investigators had no credible evidence. The explanation that recontiled these anomet

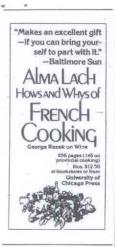
The explanation that reconclied these apparent anomalies was offered by David Belin, a staff attorney. This was that Kennedy's neck wound and Connally's wounds were inflicted by the same bullet, the one found at Parkland Hospital, and that the third shot fired from Owald's rifle had missed. Supporting this, theory was physical evidence that one builet had missed, and had ricocheted off a curb, nicking a bystander. Joseph Ball and David Belin found further support for the hypothesis in a restaging of the critical few seconds when the shots were fired.

"We sent the car [to Dallas]," Ball says, "with two dummies marked with the spots for the wounds. We had a man in the sixth-floor room [of the Book Depository] with the gun, with a movie camera on it. We moved the car on the Book Depository] with the gun, with a movie care on the route at 11 miles per hour, and we found that for a considerable length of time the two bodies were ditreetly in line, so that a builet fired from that gun had to go through those two bodies." In that case, what of Connally's testimony that the had head the first shot but had not been hit by it? In being

forced to accept the singlebuilet theory, Belin and Ball discounted the Governor's recollection on that score. They concluded that he had simply suffered a delayed perception of his wounds. As Belin writes in his book "Nov. 22, 1963: You Are the Jury," a detailed reconstruction of the Warren Commission's work, "Governor Connally was simply wrong in his testimony... just as every witness to a sudden and startiling event is incepable of being completely accurate."

The full commission, it must be noted, waffled on this point. In a relevant passage in its report, it said (1) that "there is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds': (2) that, on the other hand, "Governor Connally's wounds': (2) that, on the other hand, "Governor Connally's testimony and certain other factors have given rise to some difference of opinion as to this probability'; but (3) that "it is not necessary to any essential finding of the Commission to determine just which shot hit Governor Connally." Belin and Ball flatly disagree. As Belin wrote in his book, "The plain fact is that it is absolutely necessary to the findings of the Commission to determine whether the same bullet that pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds." The uncertainty flowing from this passage in the Warren Report has doubtless contributed to the controversy. It appears that the commission fudged its language here to satisfy one of its members, the late Senator Richard 8, Russell, who had trouble accepting the single-bullet theo "single bullet" has been a sort of Rorschach ink blot in which different examiners seem to see what they wish to find.

Dr. Wecht says his examination of the autopsy material leads him to the conclusion that the single-built theory is "untenable." He maintains that because of the right-toleft lateral angle of Kennedy's throat wound, the builet could not have hit Connally where



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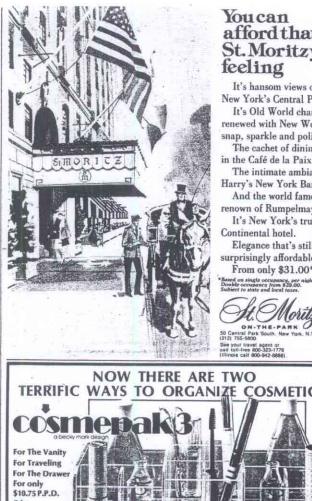
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it did without making "an acute angular turn to the right in midair." To him, that "strongly suggests" a second gumman firing from the Texas Book Depository. Jacob Cohen, an instructor in the Department of Ameri-can Studies at Brandeis Uni-versity. draws an omonite

can scudies at Branders Ont-versity, draws an opposite conclusion from his study of the Zapruder film. In view of Connally's movements and changes of posture during those fateful seconds, Cohen writes in a recent issue of Commentary magazine, the Governor could have received his several wounds from one his several wounds from one bullet at the precise instant-when the President was shot through the neck—and only at that instant. A bullet strik-ing Connally a second or so later (which is when the critics claim has may hit "mould after (which is when the critics claim he was hit) "would have had to exit from the chest at a downward angle, to have taken at least two sharp turns upward in mid-air — right and then left into the knuckle side of the wright and then are write a setting into the knuckle side of the wrist; and then, upon exiting on the palm side, further up in the air than the wound of entry, would have had to execute a very sharp U-turn into the thigh: plainly impos-sible." Then in the protein

Then there is the question of the "magic bullet's" well-nigh undamaged state. The tiny amount of metal lost by the bullet as it struck (lesh and bone was quite consonant with the infinitesimal amount found in the wounds amount found in the wounds it is said to have inflicted on Kennedy and Connally; still, its imperviousness to greater distortion was abnor-mal. Dr. Wecht emphasizes that point in arguing that the single-bullet theory is unten-able. For the bullet to have suffered so little damage does seem improbable. But it is not impossible. Perhaps the strongest ar-guments for the single-bullet theory flow from the impli-cations of the alternatives. Those who claim there was a conspiracy imply, or flatly

Those who claim there was a conspiracy imply, or flatly charge, that the "magic bul-let" was fired earlier (by an unnamed Somsone) into cot-ton or water, from Oswald's rifle, and then planted at Parkland Hospital to incrimin-ate him. Any conspirators who did that would have had to be both cumping and studid. who did that would have had to be both cunning and stupid. Why go through the extraor-dinary convolutions of obtain-ing a builtet fired in advance from Oswald's rifle and rush-ing it to the hospital to incrim-inate him--then plant a near-perfect bullet that would im-mediately arouse wernone's mediately arouse everyone's suspicions? Why not a badly (Continued on Page 126)



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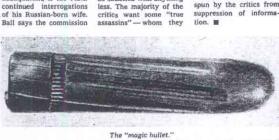




the place of Lee Harvey Oswald. An investigation that did not accomplish that would undoubtedly be dismissed by them as a "new whitewash." The effect on the gene ral citizenry is anothe matter. A new investiga tion may not discove anything of any grea significance that is new But by compelling a pub lic debate of the kine

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that was aborted when that was aborted when the Warren Commission went out of existence in 1964, leaving the field to the critics, a fresh investi-gation should put the old evidence—and the ques-tioning of that evidence -into clearer focus. That should have a beneficial effect on the country-all the more so if the investi-gators threw open the windows and doors and examined all the lockedup documents. Whatever the discoverable truth may be, it cannot be as dreadful as the fantasies spun by the critics from suppression of informa-



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