

Warren Commission accused of embarking on inquiry wishing to find that Lee Oswald acted alone

## New doubts about Kennedy killing

From Fred Emery  
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A massive and potentially disturbing new book on the Warren Commission's investigation into the death of President Kennedy declares categorically: "Nothing we have been told about the fact of the assassination itself was true."

The author, Mr Harold Weisberg, is an indefatigable pursuer not so much of conspiracy theories as of the facts hitherto withheld from the Warren Commission, and by it.

The book, entitled *Post Mortem*, devotes nearly 200 of its 650 pages to hitherto secret government documents and photographs. Mr Weisberg has obtained them through tireless and exemplary use of the Freedom of Information Act, under which citizens can petition for official documents.

His principal contention is that the commission set up by President Johnson and led by Chief Justice Earl Warren (including Mr Gerald Ford among its members) did not from the outset wish to depart from the already established notion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in planning and carrying out the assassination.

Mr Weisberg quotes some very troubling comments by commission members about the unusual attempts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to present their conclusions on Oswald and their adamant insistence that there was no conspiracy without further exploring Oswald's links with Russia or indeed his links with the FBI itself.

The commission made it clear that they wanted this "speculation" by members kept secret and the transcript of their remarks destroyed. No mention was made in the Warren Commission's final report. Yet Mr Weisberg found them in stenographic note form at the National Archives, and was able to have them copied under the provisions of the Act.

Mr Weisberg further discloses that the Warren Commission never had the original death certificate of the slain President; and he publishes documents showing that one shot wound was much lower down the President's back than the neck wound incorrectly insisted upon by the Warren Commission.

There is much more. Mr Weisberg accuses a number of government officials of perjury, and challenges them to appear with him before a congressional inquiry. It is not clear whether Mr Weisberg himself will be called before the inquiry being reopened by Senator Richard Schweiker.

While the book may demolish the work of the commission more completely than ever, it is not clear what, if anything, it establishes in its place. In the matter of conspiracy before the assassination Mr Weisberg will say only that there was an aftermath whitewash, rather than a plan to kill.

However, we know from President Johnson's last television interview, disclosed long after his death, that he believed there must have been some connexion between Oswald and the attempts by Americans to assassinate Fidel Castro; and Mr Weisberg helps to establish that the official version will no longer wash.

He also shames the press, which under the freedom of information access, granted by the Act, ought to have beaten him to acquiring all the documents.