



Harold Weisberg
'Whitewash' Author

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'Assassination Was A Plot,' Says Analyst

By JACQUE SIDLE

"I believe that the assassination of President Kennedy was a plot, and that all of Oswald's rights were being systematically denied. Somebody didn't want him to be brought to trial — his mouth had to be closed. I expected his death to happen but I was shocked when it actually did happen before my eyes, that dreadful day on television."

These were the words of Harold Weisberg of the Coq d'Or Press, Hyattstown, Md., and the author of the books 'Whitewash I' and 'Whitewash II,' which deal with the findings of the Warren Report on the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent happenings.

Weisberg spoke, Thursday evening, at Billings Library, University of Vermont, on "The

Warren Commission Report on The Kennedy Assassination," in which he challenges its veracity and raises many questions. He was brought to the University by the History Honors Society.

He has been a newspaper and magazine writer and a senate investigator and intelligence and political analyst. During the early days of World War II, his personal investigations were widely credited with laying the foundations for the take-over of enemy property and foreign funds controls. This work was of value to the Justice Department and he has been consulted by many Congressional committees.

His earlier writings won the admiration and praise of correspondents, Congressmen, cabinet members and the White House, and during the Kennedy administration his 'Geese for Peace' project got the Peace Corps its first good publicity break. This was an effort, later repeated, to foster more basic agricultural help for the newly emerging lands.

With his wife and an assortment of domestic animals, Mr. Weisberg lives on a small farm in Western Maryland. He is an expert on waterfowl and has written several books about them.

A stocky, dark-haired man, greying at the temples, Weis-

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berg talked easily and steadily about the grisly events of that dreadful November day in 1963.

"The actual writing of the book took me only 28 days," he recalled. "I was so thoroughly steeped in it. My wife and I lived this thing, day and night. She compiled over a third of a million words of notes, which alone take 26 reels of tape, and running for six hours each. Here is one husband who is very appreciative of his wife's help. The book would have not been possible without her."

"I read reports, listened to rumors and then made an analysis," he continued. "There was really no scholarly way of writing this book — it was done with luck and a fair amount of instinct. Sometimes I would go to bed, fall asleep immediately, then wake several hours later with some problem fully reasoned out in my mind. I would get up, dress, and begin writing. I make no claims to infallibility. I have made mistakes — this is vast material."

"Mine is the only book that addresses each of the major conclusions of the Warren Commission in terms of the Commission's evidence alone. You know, Police Officer Tippit's murder was the touchstone of the whole thing. If the Tippit murder had not happened it would have had to be invented. There is reason to believe that, in effect, it was."

Weisberg had a very bad time getting his book published because of its volatile nature.

Although it was called "moderate, responsible and a convincing understatement of the Warren report's inaccuracies," by a major publishing house, and a surprisingly large number of editorial and sales personnel agreed in this appraisal, it was shunned by 65 publishers in a 14-month period. A limited edition was finally published in August 1965 and a gener-

al edition came out May 9, 1966.

"This disturbed me greatly," Weisberg went on to say. "It meant that we live in a country where a president could be killed, and we the people could get no true answers. That the press was abdicating its responsibility was a further evidence of erosion of freedom."

Weisberg spent hours and days going through records and archives and found many witnesses' reports and important pictures, both still and moving, that were virtually ignored by the Commission. He believes that the F.B.I. deliberately falsified the reconstruction of the crime, and says. "Our Government has forfeited trust by the people in this thing and they must get it back."

When asked about his second 'Whitewash,' the author said.

"This second book differs from the first in that it comes from the once secret files of the Commission, as the first book came from the Warren Report exclusively."

Mrs. Weisberg summed up, "The explicit conclusion of

'Whitewash I,' is that the expected job has not been done and must be — entirely in public and preferably by Congress. The second book addresses itself to how the whitewashing was done, and it shows how the F.B.I. and the secret service, with the lusty collaboration of the staff lawyers, did it."

Earliest exploration and attempt at missionary work in Texas were around 1519.