

EDITORIAL and OPINION PAGE**Questioning the Warren Report**

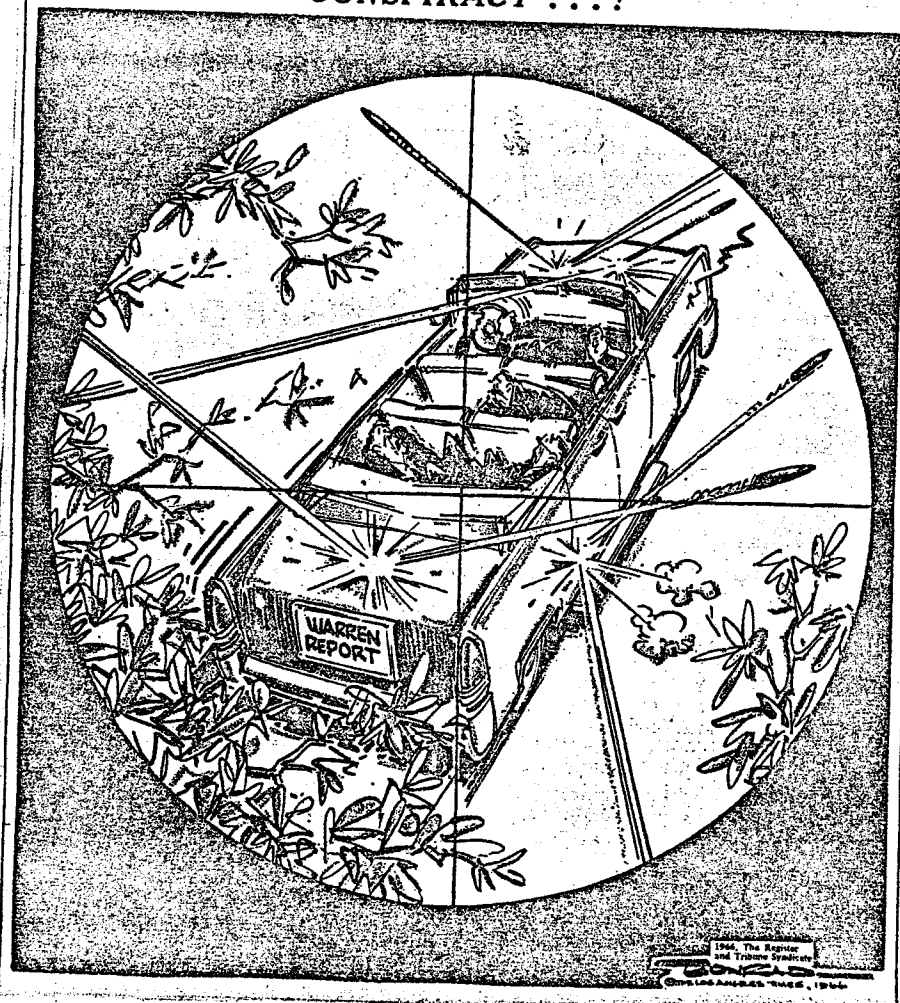
QUITE CANDIDLY, we hardly knew how to react when we were first confronted with Gary Schoener's critical analysis of the Warren Report. We're still not sure.

Schoener, who is working for a PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Minnesota, has invested an impressive amount of time and energy in what is really too serious a thing to be called a hobby. He has, for example, in the past two and a half years read and reread the Warren Report and its companion 26 volumes of testimony and hearings. He has traveled around the country, talking with other Report critics, professional and amateur, has read their books and sought out Warren Commission documents now available in the National Archives.

So what of the result? Each reader will of course have to make his own judgment. We find ourselves provoked to wonder about some of the Commission's conduct, but not yet convinced that its final conclusion was wrong. We find Schoener's propositions plausible but not irresistibly persuasive.

Nevertheless, we are far from certain that all of the necessary questions about John F. Kennedy's assassination have been answered. And until greater certainty is possible, the questions raised by honest critics such as Schoener cannot be arbitrarily sloughed off.

**'WELL, I SAY THIS IS SOME KIND OF A
CONSPIRACY ...!'**



the other hand."

Bowers thought that the thing in his hand was a telephone, microphone, or something which gave that appearance.

About eight minutes before the assassination Bowers observed a white Chevrolet Impala cruise into the parking lot. "It was muddy up to the windows" and bore an out-of-state license similar to the first car he had observed. The last Bowers saw of him, "he was pausing just about in—just above the assassination site." Bowers could not see whether the car left the area prior to the shooting.

Finally, Bowers testified that just before the shots were fired he noticed two men standing near the fence which separates the parking lot and grassy knoll. His description of the two men is quite similar to the description of the two men Julia Ann Mercer observed with the "gun case" sometime earlier.

At about 12:15 Arnold Rowland and his wife arrived at a spot down the street from the Depository building to wait for the motorcade which was due to arrive in about 15 minutes. He has excellent vision. Just after his arrival, Rowland happened to look up at the Depository and noticed a Negro male leaning out of the window on the southeast corner of the building on the 6th floor. Rowland was able to give a detailed description of the man.

This window is the one from which a lone assassin allegedly fired a rifle six minutes later!

If such was the case, then this man should certainly be a prime suspect as an accomplice.

There is no evidence that the commis-

sion ever even attempted to locate the man Rowland saw in the window.

Rowland noticed a second man in a sixth floor window, but this time one at the southwest end of the building. This man was standing a few feet back from the window and was holding what Rowland described as a high powered rifle with a telescopic sight.

Rowland gave a fairly complete description of the man and his clothing. He assumed that the man with the gun was a Secret Service man who was there to help protect the President, and so told only his wife about him. They both looked up at the building many times before the arrival of the motorcade but never again caught sight of him.

A minute before the arrival of the motorcade Mrs. Carolyn E. Walther happened to glance up at the Depository building and noticed two men in the southeast corner window of one of the upper floors. One was holding a weapon which "had a short barrel and seemed large around the stock or end."

She thought that it might have been a machine gun.

In the same window was a second man who was wearing a brown suit coat and holding a rifle. Almost immediately after she noticed these two men, someone in the crowd said "Here they come," and she turned to watch the motorcade round the corner.

The last she saw of the men they were looking down Houston, also awaiting the arrival of the motorcade . . .

Tomorrow: The shots.