

EMBER 22, 1963.

Oliver Stone Talks Back

'JFK' has created a storm of controversy. Here, the director answers his critics and explains the thinking behind his film

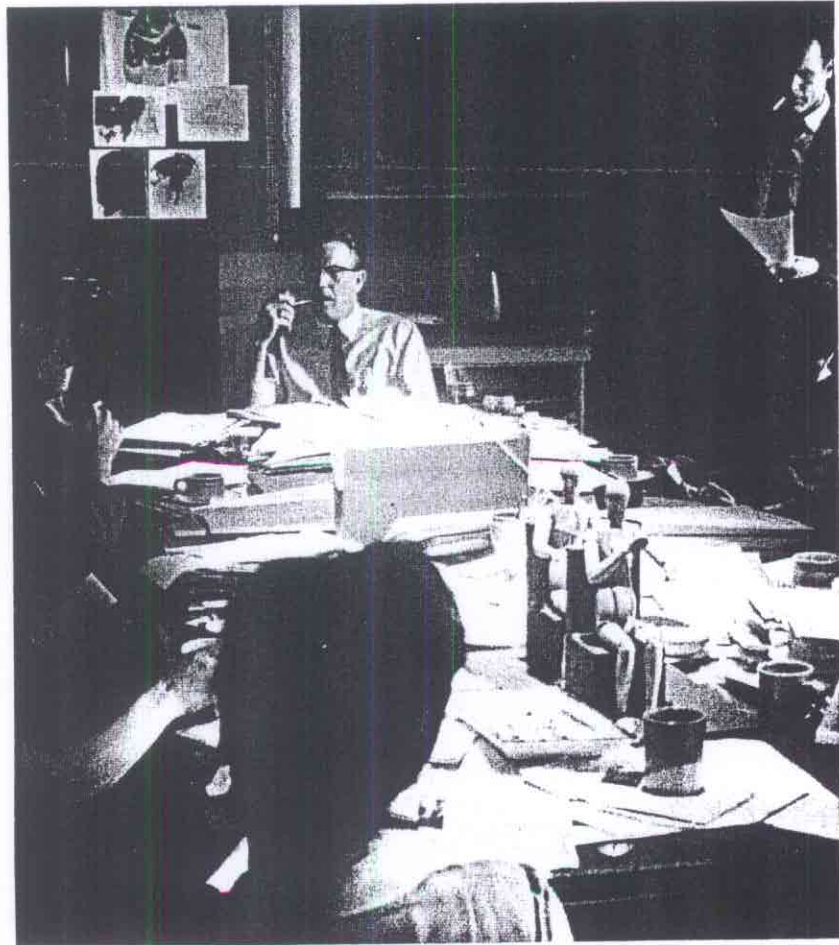
BY OLIVER STONE

THE DIRTY little secret of American journalism is that whenever you watch a TV news

program or read a newspaper that includes coverage of something you saw or knew about or in which you actually participated, even a baseball game, it's generally wrong. Sometimes just a little, sometimes a lot, but wrong.

Now, if that's true, what about all the stories of which we don't have any firsthand knowledge? For that matter, what about history itself? According to Herodotus and Homer, history is gossip, stories heard round a campfire, passed down from bard to bard, father to son. Are we to believe our George Washington texts from primary school or Howard Zinn's multicultural *People's History of the United States*? In most textbooks, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is reduced to a few short paragraphs following the party line and featuring the obvious names: J.F.K., L.B.J., Jackie, Earl Warren, Jack Ruby, and, of course, Lee Harvey Oswald, the "lone assassin." This is supposed to be "the truth."

There is a saying: "A lie is like a snowball—the longer it is rolled, the larger it is." The Warren Commission conclusion—that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy—is that lie. America's Official Story. "History," in its original Greek



PREMIERE JANUARY 1992

2/8/91 - to Stone
 5/22 - to Rod & Marshall City
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 6/2 - to Stone
 6/7 - to Ruess
 6/27 - to "
 9/25 - to Stone of Hollywood
 Reporter Aug 9/5
 1/95 - to Stone
 1/93 - to "
 1/28 - to Jill Smith - Greenberg
 1/2 - to "
 1/12 - to "
 1/12 - to "

Not included -
 Do to the Louisa article
 are included in Stone
 cover file - do you
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