

# Wecht Finding Allies In

The bandwagon is getting a little crowded.

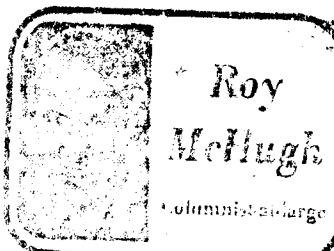
Cyril Wecht has been on it right from the start. He never did believe what the Warren Commission said about John F. Kennedy's assassination -- that it was purely and simply the work of a single lunatic.

The country's best friends used to call at his office by the dozen.

Wecht would usually game "yes" to all these. Night after night he can be found addressing an audience somewhere. The federal government allows him to excerpt the autopsy materials in the National Archives. Not all of it, he discovered, was there.

He persists in calling attention to the Warren Commission's weaknesses. His persistence and his constant cross-examination of the Commission's chief witness, Lee Harvey Oswald, has caused a kind of a stir. I mean, the people who are most important in this country are not going to be swayed by some old man who is 50 years old and has been dead for 10 years.

He has been instrumental in encouraging a number of other writers,



But the popular comments and private scorn have abated. "Amazingly so," Wecht observes.

According to the Gallup and Harris polls, two-thirds of the American people no longer take the Warren Commission seriously. Watergate, the scandal that has just hit us, has created a sense of crisis.

What people think we should do is to demand a full-scale Attorney General's investigation of all those who were involved.

That's what we're doing. We're asking the House Select Committee on Assassinations to do all it can

announce that its unfinished investigation of the CIA has revealed no connection between the agency's activities and the blowing away in Dallas of the 35th President.

Articles suggesting otherwise have recently appeared in the New York Review of Books, the intelligent's favorite coming tower, and the most irreverent New Times. They're the latest of many.

Meanwhile, under an amendment to the Freedom of Information Act, individuals are filing lawsuits that would force the release of Warren Commission materials the government has been sitting on for years.

Suddenly it's the thing to do. Paul Landry is getting a little help, and Cyril Wecht wants more.

A lot of us who are involved in the investigation of the Warren Commission are getting very excited. We're getting very excited because we know that the CIA has been involved in the whole Watergate break-in, and we know that as soon as we get those materials, we'll be able to prove it.

## Call For Reopenings

the Dallas police immediately after the shooting.

Behind an lumpy desk in the county courthouse, Wecht shakes his head at such nonsense.

"All this shoot-out stuff is so harmful because it sets up beautiful straw men for the Warren Commission's apologists and defenders to knock down," he says.

In particular, Wecht is talking about David Bellin, once a senior member of the Warren Commission staff.

"What he does when he gets these stories," says Wecht, "he lashes out at them with a great effect. Then he says there is no new evidence that the Warren Commission was wrong."

Wecht hopes "I think that there is a good chance — something called 'the theory of multiple analysis,' a highly plausible theory to determine whether bullet casings have come from the same gun."

He does not, just a few months ago, a few days ago, Warren Commission from which he has since closed the existence of a previously unmentioned neutral

and open to view on the investigation fragments.

Indeed, he should have established whether or not that fact passed through Lee Harvey Oswald's brain — "one might wonder," he says, "if it was the bullet that wounded the governor of Texas, John Connally, in three different places, wounding or destroying the single assassin in one bullet, perhaps on the single bullet?"

But Pro or anti, says Wecht, "minor variations in the findings can contribute to make a difference."

Which was odd, in a recent application analysis, any variation at all makes a difference. Wecht and numerous others want to see the analysis for themselves.

They think they are on the verge. Clarence Kelley, Hoover's successor as head of the FBI, has promised Wecht it will soon be available. "Hopefully, I'm first on the list," says Wecht.

Whether Lee Harvey Oswald was a double or triple agent, working for the CIA and the Russians or Cubans or someone else — and whether Jack Ruby's object was to close the case

or to re-open it — that is the question that after the proposed Senate hearings remains.

It's time to go to the House Select Committee and begin to argue my case, Wecht says. "We're not going to have any place where we can't."

He's not alone. He's got, but he's not alone. He's got, remember, lots of other people who are interested in this project. "We're in active battle," he says.

Indeed, this attorney wants to "begin again. Now some things are very difficult to come up, and in all the aftermath in the United States, people were given positions in maybe last three days. But in Bellin there, [he] gave [us] four, called a remarkable coincidence.

I am personally satisfied that David is the way selected because he can be depended on to help control the way the investigation will proceed especially as it refers to the Kennedy assassination and any possible CIA coverup role."

With all due respect to David, in Iowa, the proportion is not independent, but after Watergate,