

CIA behind Kennedy's death,

By ISAAC REHERT

Now that the Rockefeller Commission investigating the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency is taking another look at some aspects of the Kennedy assassination, Henry Wegrocki feels vindicated.

He has been saying for months that the Warren Commission was wrong, that the time is ripe now for an official reinvestigation of that murder.

Henry is only 18, a senior at McDonogh School — he concedes he is no old and practiced hand at accomplished sleuthing. But the facts, he insists, speak for themselves; it is not a question of the youth or age of the person pointing the finger.

Henry believes that in the light of present-day events, the conclusion of the Warren Commission would never stand up against the facts. He thinks that the commission's report was molded in part by the political climate of the day.

But that climate has changed, Henry says, and a new look will expose the single-assassin, no-conspiracy interpretation of that crime as untenable.

Henry has been taking such a new look. During the past 16 months, he has read dozens of books on the subject, visited the National Archives in Washington where the evidence is kept and studied the Warren Report.

The nature of the wounds that were inflicted, the films showing the actions of President Kennedy and former Texas Gov. John Connally in the open limousine, Governor Connally's own eye-witness testimony, the recovered bullets and the rifle, which is supposed to have been the only weapon used — all this evidence does not point, Henry believes, to a solitary and emotionally distraught Lee Harvey Oswald planning and doing the deed all alone.

Henry believes there had to be more than one sharpshooter. Someone else had to be firing from another spot besides the top floor of the Texas Book Depository where Oswald had been.

There was a conspiracy, Henry believes, and adding what we know today to the information the Warren Commission had then suggests a conspiracy involving officials in the government.

Henry thinks that the Warren Commission eliminated the possibility of conspiracy because at the time there seemed to be no motive for one and it was unthinkable then that high Ameri-

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young researcher thinks

can officials might be involved in such a thing.

But, he says, we are a lot better informed today, a lot wiser about some of the sinister capabilities of men in high office. Since the Warren Report, we have lived through My Lai, the Agnew resignation, Watergate and now the most recent revelations about some of the muddy activities of the CIA.

Today, Henry believes, the nation would be more ready to face the truth about what happened in Dallas.

Henry began his study in November, 1973, after watching a television program on the 10th anniversary of the assassination. He borrowed his father's car and drove to the Archives in Washington to study the evidence.

First of all, he decided, it couldn't have happened as the Warren Commission explained it. The commission said that three shots were fired, all of them by Lee Harvey Oswald, hitting the Kennedy car from above and behind.

One of the bullets is supposed to have passed through Kennedy's shoulder and then to have struck Governor Connally. A second missed, the third hit Kennedy in the head.

Impossible, says Henry Wegrocki. He has looked at the bullet, it is hardly at all deformed. He has looked at the rifle, an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano bolt-action weapon of 1940 vintage. No one could possibly fire the thing as fast as the actual shots rang out that day.

He looked at the films. While Pres-



Sunpapers photo — George H. Cook

Henry Wegrocki, 18, studies the evidence.

dent Kennedy was being hit the first time, Governor Connally was still sitting in comfort. His own testimony was that there was an interval between the moment he heard the first shot ring out and when he himself was hit.

And the shot that struck the President's head could not have come from the rear, for parts of the flying debris struck police officers on motorcycles behind. It had to come from up front.

So Oswald could not have been the only person doing the shooting. There was more than one assassin, Henry believes; there was a group, and the brains behind the group, in his opinion, was the CIA.

The CIA had a motive, for President Kennedy had expressed disapproval of

the worst of their cloak-and-dagger activities. It would suit them for him to be out of the way.

And there is evidence, too, that Lee Harvey Oswald himself had links to the CIA.

It was the CIA that had masterminded the invasion of the Bay of Pigs and a short time later, President Kennedy is known to have demurred from a proposed CIA plot to assassinate Fidel Castro.

Nevertheless, in spite of this disapproval, a CIA-backed team was picked up in Havana intent on just such an act of political murder. This is what the Rockefeller Commission recently has been concerned about.

As for Oswald, Henry's research raised a lot of unanswered questions that suggest he may have worked for the

CIA.

When in Russia in the early 1960's, was he spying on the Soviet development of a U-2 spy plane?

As an insignificant Marine private at Atsugi Air Force Base in Japan, he was given a high security clearance. Why?

And the Dallas police maintained that Oswald had a CIA number, 110669. Is there any verification?

Unfortunately, unless there is a change in policy, the American public cannot find out until the year 2038, for many documents relating to the assassination have been consigned unopened into the National Archives for 75 years.

Lyndon Johnson believed there might have been a conspiracy -- perhaps by the CIA, perhaps by Castro, in retaliation for the attempts made on his life. And Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, who was a member of the Warren Commission, dissented from its final explanation.

But back in 1964, Henry believes, agencies such as the CIA were too sacrosanct even for the Warren Commission to take on.

That is all changed now. No agency of government is beyond suspicion today.

Henry believes that the time is ripe to reopen the matter of the assassination and when the Rockefeller Commission's report is delivered next month, he hopes it will spark public demand for a new and more thorough investigation.

Henry will lecture on his own private studies at McDonogh's Cultural Fair Friday.