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WARREN 2-4

DAY LD

BY JOHN MILNE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- "READING THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION WAS LIKE RIPPING THE BANDAGE FROM A STILL FRESH WOUND," WROTE MERRIMAN SMITH, WHO WAS THERE.

A DECADE LATER, THE WOUND MAY NOT BE HEALED.

THE NINE MEMBERS, CHAIRED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, TOOK 10 MONTHS AFTER JOHN KENNEDY'S DEATH, NOV. 22, 1963, TO PREPARE THEIR REPORT. IT MADE TWO SIGNIFICANT POINTS, BOTH CRITICIZED FOR YEARS:

-- "ON THE BASIS OF THESE FINDINGS, THE COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

-- "IN ITS ENTIRE INVESTIGATION THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY, SUBVERSION OR DISLOYALTY TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT BY ANY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL."

SINCE JOHN KENNEDY, HIS BROTHER ROBERT AND THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE KILLED, A WHOLE BREED OF ASSASSINATION BUFFS HAVE BEEN SPANNED -- MEN AND WOMEN ABLE TO LIST THE GRISLY EVENTS IN DALLAS WITH THE EASE OF A BASEBALL FAN REMEMBERING THE PLAYS IN A WORLD SERIES GAME.

THE WATERGATE DISCLOSURES GAVE CREDIBILITY TO WHAT ONCE SEEMED FLIGHTS OF FANCY. EMPLOYEES OF THE WHITE HOUSE CAUGHT BUGGING THE OPPOSITE PARTY. THE NO. 2 PRESIDENTIAL AIDE CONVICTED IN THE BURGLARY OF DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST. FOUR OF RICHARD NIXON'S TOP AIDES CONVICTED OF OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.

MORE MORE

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