

## Merry-Go-Round

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By Drew Pearson

### FBI's Role in Dallas

THERE WAS an important backstage byplay when the FBI submitted its report to the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The fact was that J. Edgar Hoover, the 69-year-old FBI director, wanted to publish the report immediately. This would have got the jump on a commission that actually is investigating the FBI. The commission is also investigating the Secret Service and any reported failure by the FBI and the Secret Service to cooperate at Dallas.

What the public doesn't realize is that for the first time since the days of Warren Harding the FBI is under investigation and the FBI is not accustomed to being investigated.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON knew the FBI would be in for investigation and also knew the sacrosanct position of the FBI when he went to great pains to pick a presidential commission of unimpeachable integrity to probe the Dallas tragedy.

*What the White House knew from reading the newspapers was that the FBI had either fallen down on its part of the job in Dallas or else was not cooperating with the Secret Service.*

In the train of tragic events leading up to the assassination of President Kennedy, it is an indisputable fact that the FBI did interview Lee Oswald in advance. Despite this, it did not report him to the Secret Service.

What is certain is that the FBI tried to cover up the fact that it had interviewed Oswald at all.

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IT WOULD APPEAR to have been a shocking oversight to permit an unstable, irrational young man who had lived in Russia, passed out circulars favoring Fidel Castro, and quite recently had taken a trip to Mexico to contact the Cuban embassy, to remain unwatched and unreported to the Secret Service when the President passed through the city in which he lived and past the building in which he worked.

It's now established that the FBI had kept tabs on Oswald. It even learned that he was working at the Texas School Book Repository.

These are some of the facts which explain why the FBI wanted to get its version out ahead of the study by the Presidential Commission.

*Note—when the Presidential Commission stepped in to prevent publication, an official FBI leak let certain conclusions out to the press.*

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