

WARREN

BY PETER KIMSS

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NEW YORK, JUNE 4--A DECLASSIFIED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REPORT IS BEING USED TO SUPPORT NEW CHALLENGES TO THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT THAT CONTENDED LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

J. LEE RANKEN, THE COMMISSION'S FORMER GENERAL COUNSEL, AND NORMAN REDLICH, WHO WAS HIS DEPUTY, REBUT THE SO-CALLED "F. B. I. SUMMARY REPORT" AS ALREADY EVALUATED AND DISCARDED DURING THE INQUIRY. THEY CONTEND THE INQUIRY HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN RELIED ON MORE DIRECT AND EXPERT TESTIMONY.

THE ISSUE IS WHETHER A SINGLE BULLET PASSED THROUGH PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S BODY AND THEN WOUNDED GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY JR. OF TEXAS. THE CRITICS SUGGEST IT HAD TO BE A SEPARATE BULLET THAT WOUNDED THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE FIRING TIME FOR OSWALD'S BOLT-ACTION RIFLE TAKEN SUCH THAT THERE HAD TO BE A SECOND ASSASSIN ALSO FIRING.

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS THAT THREE SHOTS APPARENTLY WERE FIRED. IT FOUND "VERY PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE" THAT THE FIRST BULLET TO HIT THE PRESIDENT ALSO WOUNDED GOV. CONNALLY, AND SAID A LATER BULLET INFLECTED A MASSIVE, FATAL HEAD WOUND ON THE PRESIDENT. ONE SHOT, IT SAID, "PROBABLY MISSED," WITH EVIDENCE "INCONCLUSIVE" ON WHETHER THIS WAS THE FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD.

VEKING PRESS WILL PUBLISH ON JUNE 29 15,000 COPIES OF A BOOK EVOLVED FROM A CORNELL UNIVERSITY MASTER'S THESIS, "INQUEST," BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN, INCLUDING 36 PAGES OF THE F. B. I. REPORT.

HOLT, RINEHART & WINSTON IS CIRCULATING A BROCHURE ON ITS PLAN TO PUBLISH 30,000 COPIES ON SEPT. 8 OF A BOOK, "RUSH TO JUDGMENT," BY MARK LANE, FOR A TIME COUNSEL RETAINED BY

OSWALD'S MOTHER.

THE F. B. I. REPORT IS ALSO BEING CITED IN A PHOTO-OFFSET BOOK, "WHITEWASH," PUBLISHED PERSONALLY IN HYATTSTOWN, MD., IN 5,000 COPIES MAY 9 BY ITS AUTHOR, HAROLD WEISBERG, FORMER SENATE CIVIL LIBERTIES SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATOR.

IT IS TO BE MENTIONED ALSO IN "THE OSWALD AFFAIR," BY LEO CHEVANE, SENATE CIVIL LIBERTIES SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATOR.

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THE REPORT BY THE F. B. I. HAD FIRST BEEN DESCRIBED BY A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER, VINCENT J. SALANDRIA, IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE, "THE MINORITY OF ONE."

THESE FOLLOWED AN AWARD BOOKS PAPERBACK, "THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION," BY SYLVAN FOX, LAST CITY EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND THE SUN, OUT IN 100,000 COPIES SINCE OCTOBER.

THE F. B. I. HAS DECLINED COMMENT. BUT RANKIN, NOW NEW YORK CITY'S CORPORATION COUNSEL, SAYS HE IS "WELL SATISFIED THAT NO VALUED ATTACK HAS YET BEEN MADE" ON THE COMMISSION REPORT. HE HAS CONFIDENCE THAT CRITICISM WILL PROVE "SUPERFICIAL AND WITHOUT PROPER CONSIDERATION OF THE MATERIAL THAT'S AVAILABLE TO EVERYBODY IN THE (COMMISSION) REPORT AND THE SUPPORTING VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS."

REBLICH, A NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF LAW ON LEAVE AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, SAYS HE HAS FOUND NOTHING IN THE EPSTEIN BOOK OR ARGUMENTS HE HAS YET SEEN ON OTHER POINTS WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM TO QUESTION COMMISSION FINDINGS.

ARLEN SPECTER, NOW DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF PHILADELPHIA, WHO IS CREDITED WITH HAVING DEVELOPED THE "SINGLE-BULLET" HYPOTHESIS AS THE COMMISSION'S ASSISTANT COUNSEL, SAYS HE HAS



NOT YET SEEN THE EPSTEIN BOOK. BUT HE ASSERTS "THE REPORT IS SOLIDLY BASED ON THE EVIDENCE."

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ONE STATEMENT IN THE F. B. I. "SUMMARY REPORT" DATED DEC. 9, 1963, SAYS "MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S BODY REVEALED THAT ONE OF THE BULLETS HAD ENTERED JUST BELOW HIS SHOULDER TO THE RIGHT OF THE SPINAL COLUMN AT AN ANGLE OF 45 TO 60 DEGREES DOWNWARD, THAT THERE WAS NO POINT OF EXIT, AND THAT THE BULLET WAS NOT IN THE BODY."

THE F. B. I.'S "SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT" DATED JAN. 13, 1964, ADDS, "MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S BODY HAD REVEALED THAT THE BULLET WHICH ENTERED HIS BACK HAD PENETRATED TO A DISTANCE OF LESS THAN A FINGER LENGTH." THE F. B. I. DOCUMENTS ARE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON.

BY CONTRAST, THE REPORT OF THE AUTOPSY PERFORMED NOV. 22, SIGNED BY THREE MILITARY SURGEONS, SAYS THE BULLET HAD "ENTERED THE RIGHT SUPERIOR POSTERIOR THORAX ABOVE THE SCAPULA," TRAVERSED SOFT TISSUES, PRODUCED CONTUSIONS ON A LUNG AND NECK MUSCLES AND "MADE ITS EXIT THROUGH THE ANTERIOR SURFACE OF THE NECK," OR ENTRY IN THE UPPER BACK, FIVE AND A HALF INCHES BELOW THE RIGHT SHOULDER JOINT TIP, AND OUT THE FRONT OF THE NECK.

THE CLINICAL SUMMARY NOTES THE AUTOPSY HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY A TELEPHONE TALK NOV. 23 WITH DR. MALCOLM PERRY, DALLAS SURGEON. THIS DEVELOPED INFORMATION THAT, IN TRYING TO SAVE THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE, "A TRACHEOSTOMY WAS PERFORMED BY EXTENDING" WHAT HAD BEEN A SMALL WOUND OF "THE LOW ANTERIOR NECK."

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EPSTEIN, A 31-YEAR-OLD NEW YORKER, NOW A HARVARD DOCTORAL  
STUDENT, ASSERTS THE ASSASSINATION FILM INDICATES THE  
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR WERE BOTH WOUNDED WITHIN 1.6 SECONDS.  
SO, HE ARGUES, "EITHER BOTH MEN WERE HIT BY THE SAME BULLET,  
OR THERE WERE TWO ASSASSINS."

THE EVIDENCE, HE CONTENDS IN HIS BOOK, "INDICATES THAT  
THE F. B. I. REPORTS ARE NOT ERRONEOUS." HE SAYS TWO F. B. I.  
AGENTS WERE PRESENT AT THE AUTOPSY. HE QUOTES TESTIMONY BY TWO  
SECRET SERVICE AGENTS THAT AUTOPSY DOCTORS "COULD NOT FIND A  
PATH FOR THE BULLET THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S BODY.

HE OFFERS A SURGEON'S DIAGRAMS MADE DURING THE AUTOPSY  
AND F. B. I. PICTURES TAKEN OF THE PRESIDENT'S JACKET AND SHIRT  
TO CONTEND A BULLET ENTERING THE BACK WOULD HAVE HAD TO TURN  
UPWARD TO GO OUT THE NECK.

IN REBUTTAL, REDLICH SAYS THE COMMISSION STUDY USED THE  
ACTUAL REPORTS OF F. B. I. INVESTIGATIVE AGENTS, NOT JUST THE  
SUMMARY. F. B. I. AND SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, HE SAYS, WERE  
LAYMEN WHO HEARD AND QUOTED SURGEONS' DISCUSSIONS GOING ON  
DURING THE AUTOPSY.

HE CITES COMMISSION EXHIBIT 903 TO RECONCILE THE DIAGRAMS  
AND THE CLOTHING HOLES WITH THE "SINGLE-BULLET" THEORY AND THE  
ASSASSINATION FILM. THIS DEPICTS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE  
ASSASSINATION, MADE IN DALLAS.

EPSTEIN CONCLUDES THAT THE COMMISSION OFFERED "AMPLE PROOF  
THAT SHOTS HAD COME FROM THE DEPOSITORY," ALTHOUGH HE HELD  
THIS "DID NOT EXCLUDE" OTHER SHOTS "FROM A DIFFERENT SOURCE."

HE SAYS SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT HAVE USED OSWALD'S RIFLE, BUT  
ASSERTS OSWALD'S "LEAVING THE SCENE, SHOOTING A POLICEMAN AND  
RESISTING ARREST CERTAINLY WERE NOT THE ACTIONS OF AN  
INNOCENT PERSON."

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