

PAGE 26 Friday, November 11, 1966 CCCCA
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Our Fearless Correspondent

Those X-Rays Of J. F. K.

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ONE GIFT ALL of us share in good measure is what someone has called the prescience of hindsight. We tend to know why things went wrong long after they went wrong; though we were a bit blind at the time.

The Warren Commission. It is so easy to see now that it was a political thing devised by President Johnson to insure his election, and by the largest possible majority, in 1964.



Worse, we know, with the wisdom that looking back gives us, the whole inquiry was something of a joke, because the investigators had been denied by the Widow Kennedy and the rest of that priceless family, access to the primary evidence in the matter.

This consisted of the 65 X-rays, color slides and black-and-white negatives taken of the assassinated President Kennedy at the autopsy of his body after the Dallas shooting.

It is reported this photographic evidence was shown to Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission. We are not told that he looked at the evidence, or how closely. And even if he had looked closely, it would not have proved much, since the rest of the members of the inquiry body were denied, totally, access to the material.

THE WARREN Commission was supposed to settle, once and for all, doubts about who killed President Kennedy. Because of its sloppy proce-

dures, general inattention, and clearly political frame of reference, it has done nothing of the kind.

A recent Louis Harris poll showed that 60 per cent of the American public doubts the assassination was the work of one man.

For this the Kennedy family must bear a heavy responsibility. The Warren Commission was denied the photos on grounds of "taste," highly questionable grounds indeed in the assassination of the most important man in the world at the time.

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NOW, WHILE the inquiry's final verdict is being impeached in books and other forums all over the place, the Kennedy family, with increasing arrogance and contempt for the truth, has turned the photos over to the National Archives with conditions which deny them to the use of responsible disinterested investigators and scholars for the better part of a century.

Under these terms, no public display or release of the photos will be permitted. For the next five years access by scholars and other investigators will be granted only with the specific permission of the Kennedy family, which means the Widow Kennedy.

After five years, the family will be willing to permit all qualified pathologists and other medical experts to study the items. ("Qualified," I predict, will mean willing to play ball.)

These limitations are to remain in effect throughout the lifetime of Mrs. Kennedy, the late President's parents, his brothers and sisters, and his two children.

The Kennedys, I predict, will not get away with it.

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THERE IS TOO great a head of steam already worked up about whether more assassins than Oswald were involved, or even if he was really involved. The Warren Commission concluded that one of the assassin's bullets struck both President Kennedy, and Mr. John Connally, the governor of Texas.

Evidence grows that the single bullet did not pass through JFK's body, as the commission said. Feeling grows that the X-rays taken at the autopsy have been suppressed to conceal the truth.

As I say, I don't think the Kennedys can get away with this one. And I sure hope they don't.