

WARREN REPORT REACTION-DOMESTIC (800)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN LEADERS AND THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY WERE

--WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS--

FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE THOROUGHNESS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT.

NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS WERE THE MOTHER OF THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN, MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD, WHO CALLED THE REPORT "RIDICULOUS," AND ATTORNEY MARK LANE, WHO IN LECTURES AROUND THE WORLD HAS EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE ASSASSIN.

SOME OF THOSE INVOLVED, INCLUDING OSWALD'S WIDOW, MARINA, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN DALLAS, WHERE THE PRESIDENT AND OSWALD WERE SLAIN, WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

FAVORABLE COMMENTS RANGED FROM GENERAL PRAISE TO AGREEMENT WITH SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS, SUCH AS THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION OF STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE PRESIDENT, AND ITS CRITICISM OF THE PERFORMANCE OF DALLAS OFFICIALS AND NEWS MEDIA IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE ASSASSINATION AND OSWALD'S DEATH BY JACK RUBY.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, NOW STUDYING THE LENGTHY REPORT, RECEIVED IT FROM CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN WITH "HEARTFELT THANKS."

"YOUR COMMISSION, I KNOW, HAS BEEN GUIDED THROUGHOUT BY A DETERMINATION TO FIND AND TO TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH OF THESE TERRIBLE EVENTS," THE PRESIDENT SAID IN A LETTER TO WARREN.

THE SLAIN PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, FORMER ATTY. GEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO READ THE FULL REPORT, BUT HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON IT.

"I AM COMPLETELY SATISFIED," HE SAID, "THAT THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATED EVERY LEAD AND EXAMINED EVERY PIECE OF EVIDENCE. THE COMMISSION'S INQUIRY WAS THOROUGH AND CONSCIENTIOUS."

TEXAS GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY, WHO WAS INJURED WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED, SAID THE REPORT "REFLECTS A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE COMMISSION TO BE EXTREMELY THOROUGH AND TO RUN DOWN EVERY FACT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT."

CONNALLY SAID HE AGREED FULLY WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WAS NOT THE GUNMAN'S TARGET AND ALSO WITH THE FINDING THAT OSWALD WAS THE KILLER. THE FINDING THAT NO CONSPIRACY WAS INVOLVED, CONNALLY SAID,

SHOULD "HAVE AN EXTREMELY SALUTARY EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD."

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA SAID HE ACCEPTED THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS THAT NO CONSPIRACY WAS INVOLVED IN THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION, THOUGH HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THE REPORT WOULD SET AT REST WORLDWIDE RUMORS OF SUCH A PLOT.

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MANSFIELD SAID HE HOPED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CONGRESS BY THE REPORT COULD "BE PUT INTO EFFECT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE" AND SAID CONGRESS SHOULD "STAY IN SESSION TO CARRY THEM OUT."

SEN. KARL MUNDT, R-S.D., SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL FOR GREATER PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY, AND SAID IT SHOULD INCLUDE A CAREFUL WATCH ON DEFECTORS WHO RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY FROM "BEHIND THE IRON OR BAMBOO CURTAINS."

SEN. FRANK CARLSON, R-KAN., APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT KILLING A PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE MADE A FEDERAL CRIME, AND SAID THE PROVISION SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE CABINET, SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN.

DALLAS DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE, WHO HAD PROMISED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR OSWALD AND LATER PROSECUTED JACK RUBY, SAID HE AGREED WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF DALLAS OFFICIALS HAD NOT COMMENTED ON EVIDENCE AGAINST OSWALD.

"ALL THE EVIDENCE SHOULD HAVE COME FROM THE WITNESS STAND," HE SAID. "I SAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE THAT WAY. BUT WHEN THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN KILLED, YOU HAVE SOME REAL PROBLEMS."

MELVIN BELLI, PRINCIPAL LAWYER IN RUBY'S DEFENSE, DESCRIBED THE FINDINGS AS "A REAL GREAT REPORT, FULFILLING THE CAPABILITIES OF THE GREAT AMERICANS WHO WERE APPOINTED TO DO IT..."

"I THINK THIS REPORT SHOULD SET AT REST FOREVER THE CONSPIRACY THEORY AND SHOULD DO A LOT TO RESTORE OUR IMAGE ABROAD," BELLI SAID, ADDING:

"THE ONE FAULT I FIND WITH THE WARREN REPORT IS THE ASCRIBING OF THE MOTIVE OF JACK RUBY...IT IS NOT THOROUGH ENOUGH."

THE REPORT NOTED RUBY'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD KILLED OSWALD SO MRS. KENNEDY WOULD NOT HAVE THE ORDEAL OF TESTIFYING AT A TRIAL, BUT THE COMMISSION DREW NO CONCLUSION ON HIS MOTIVE.

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BOTH BELLI AND DALLAS ATTORNEY JOE TONAHILL, WHO JOINED BELLI IN RUBY'S DEFENSE, AGREED WITH THE COMMISSION THAT PRETRIAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING OSWALD'S GUILT MIGHT HAVE PRECLUDED A FAIR TRIAL FOR THE ASSASSIN.

TONAHILL ADDED THAT HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE REPORT EXCEPT THAT IT SHOULD HAVE STRESSED THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS "A PRODUCT OF COMMUNISM" AND OSWALD'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

ATTORNEY LANE, WHOSE LECTURES HAVE BOLSTERED THE BELIEF OF MANY EUROPEANS THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS A RIGHT-WING CONSPIRACY, SAID THE REPORT "RAISES MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERS."

CHARGING THE REPORT'S PURPOSE WAS TO HAVE A "TRANQUILIZING EFFECT UPON AMERICA," HE SAID IT WOULD "RANK IN HISTORY WITH THE FINDING THAT DREYFUS WAS GUILTY OF TREASON AND WITH THE TRIAL OF THE TROTSKYISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION."

OSWALD'S MOTHER, SLAMMING HER FIST DOWN ON A BOUND COPY OF THE REPORT, COMMENTED:

"I CAN BREAK THIS WHOLE THING APART--I'M GOING TO MAKE FOOLS OF THEM...I HAVE FACTS IN MY POSSESSION THAT MAKE ME BELIEVE IN MY SON'S INNOCENCE. THEREFORE, THIS WILL COMPEL ME TO CONTINUE MY INVESTIGATION WITH RENEWED VIGOR."

AT IRVING, TEX., MRS. RUTH PAINE, WHO WAS SHARING HER HOME WITH OSWALD'S WIFE AND CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION, SAID SHE THOUGHT THE COMMISSION HAD DONE "A MARVELOUS JOB OF REPORTING... EVERYTHING I READ OF THE REPORT WAS EXTREMELY ACCURATE."

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THOMAS BUCHANAN, AN EX-COMMUNIST WHOSE BOOK "WHO KILLED KENNEDY?" HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLISHED ABROAD AND IS DUE FOR U.S. PUBLICATION SOON, SAID HE WAS STILL NOT CONVINCED OSWALD ACTED ALONE.

HE SAID THE COMMISSION "ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY," ADDING:

"THE VOLUME OF RESEARCH DONE IS AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING, BUT THE COMMISSION PREMATURELY EVALUATED THE EVIDENCE WHICH REFLECTED THAT PART OF THE TESTIMONY THAT CORRESPONDS TO ITS VIEW THAT ONE MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE. IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE THE CASE CAN TRULY BE CLOSED."

OSWALD'S BROTHER, ROBERT, SAID IN DALLAS THAT THE WARREN REPORT HAD

REMOVED HIS PAST DOUBTS THAT HIS BROTHER WAS THE ASSASSIN.

"I AM QUITE SATISFIED," HE SAID, "THAT IT HAS BEEN COVERED ENTIRELY AND LEAVES NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT LEE ACTUALLY DID ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND DID KILL OFFICER TIPPIT."

HE ADDED THERE WAS STILL DOUBT IN HIS MIND ABOUT HIS BROTHER'S MOTIVE, AND THAT SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT "COME CLOSE TO MY OWN PERSONAL THINKING." HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

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