

## Wide Impact

# The Report and the Future

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### Washington

The effects of the Warren Commission's report are sure to extend far beyond its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy last November 22.

The massive document could have repercussions in the 1964 elections, on the present conduct of President Johnson, and ultimately on the availability to the public of Mr. Johnson and future Presidents.

It may produce major changes for the Secret Service, the agency now assigned to protect the President. The assignments and powers of other agencies such as the FBI and even the Central Intelligence Agency might be revamped and independent review of their activities and efficiency might be increased.

In the field of legislation, the report might produce—as recommended by the commission—a law making it a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill a President, a Vice President or any officer in the line of succession to the Presidency, the President-elect and Vice President-elect.

Other legislation, particularly relating to security and investigative agencies and to the protection of Presidents, could also grow from the report.

Although the State Department was generally cleared of any serious mishandling of Oswald, who defected to the Soviet Union, then returned to this Country with American assistance—enough doubt about its procedures was expressed so that some State Department officials believe a Congressional investigation is possible.

### RUSSIA

Two major effects that could have resulted from the commission's task are not apparent in the report.

One might have been a jar to the United States relations with the Soviet Union. The report not only absolves the Soviet Union of any complicity in the assassination, but also goes out of its way to assert that Russia, in any case, had no motive for nor interest in killing Mr. Kennedy.

The other is that nothing in the report lends any credence to or supports the widely expressed theory that Mr. Oswald was affected by the conservative sentiment popular in Dallas, or that he was either acting on behalf of or because he had been influenced by "hate groups" or bigots.

### RIGHTISTS

The report said there was no evidence available that "the extreme views expressed toward President Kennedy by some right-wing groups centered in Dallas or any other general atmosphere of hate or right-wing extremism which may have existed in the city of Dallas had any connection with Oswald's actions on November 22, 1963."

Moreover, the report cited Oswald's attempt to shoot former Major General Edwin A. Walker, a right-wing leader, as evidence "that he had an extreme dislike of the right wing."

That finding tends to vindicate Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican presidential candidate, who had criticized Mr. Johnson's injection of the hate theme in his first address to Congress.

### THEME

Communists, Goldwater said, had introduced "the hate theme when the trigger was pulled." Then, he said, it had been picked up by "radical columnists and kept going."

The opinion of political observers here is that the greater political effect—if any—of the Warren report would be in favor of the Democrats, particularly Mr. Johnson and former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy,

who is now running for the U.S. Senate in New York.

That opinion is based on the supposition that the report, with its thorough reconstruction of the events of November 22, and the vast newspaper, book, television, radio and motion picture coverage of the report would tend to evoke even greater interest in President Kennedy, sympathy for him, his family and associates, and reverence for his memory.

Already, the "Kennedy legacy" is considered one of the Democrats' major assets in this election year.

Since he took over the Presidency, Mr. Johnson has taken the phrase "let us continue" as his theme and has consistently pictured himself as carrying out and building upon the programs of his predecessor. The Kennedy Administration, almost intact, remained to become the Johnson Administration.

One result of the report that could become apparent in the fairly near future might be new inhibitions on the President who now is beginning to travel widely in the presidential campaign.

### DANGERS

The Warren Report graphically pictures the dangers to a President surrounded by crowds or riding in a motorcade, and quotes J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director as saying that "total security" is not possible.

The commission points out also that a President himself causes many security problems. It does not specify but obviously has in mind such examples as the unwillingness of President Kennedy to have his car surrounded by bodyguards in motorcades, and Mr. Johnson's predilection for plunging directly into crowds to shake hands.

The report makes a specific recommendation that the

White House physician should be physically near the President at all times. This generally is carried out, but Mr. Johnson on occasion has flown on trips out of Washington in a small plane in which there was no room for Admiral George Burkley, his physician.

Mr. Johnson might well incur criticism by exposing himself too much to crowds or by creating too many difficulties for a Secret Service force already hard-pressed to give him adequate security. This is particularly true because there is no Vice President and won't be until after a NEW President is inaugurated in January.

Legislation now is pending in Congress to extend Secret Service protection to all national candidates of major parties whether in office or not.

Beyond the election campaign, the Warren Report, if its recommendations are followed, would impose much greater security precautions around the President—primarily in the fields of advance detection of threats against him from any quarter, preventive police work, and in increased security personnel and procedures.