

# The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

... MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1964 PAGE A12

## The Whole Truth

The Warren Commission has given the American people, and the world, a report which deserves acceptance as the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, about the assassination of President Kennedy. Unanimously, the Commission concluded that "all the shots which caused the President's and Governor Connally's wounds were fired from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository," that they "were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald" and that it found "no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy."

It may be hoped, although hardly expected, that this categorical conclusion will be the last word on the subject. No doubt rumor and speculation will continue to be disseminated among the glib, the perversely romantic and the morbid, as they circulated for years concerning other presidential assassinations. The event is so shocking that many find themselves unable to accept a simple and obvious explanation of it. But the Warren Commission has done all that can possibly be done to set rumor and speculation at rest. It has performed a prodigiously difficult and invaluable service to history and to the cause of truth.

The caliber of the Commission and the comprehensiveness of its inquiry compel acceptance. The members of the Commission, representing diverse political points of view, command the highest public confidence—in their judgment as well as in their integrity. It is impossible for rational men to believe that this Commission could have been either corrupted or deceived into error in discharging its momentously significant assignment. The Commission report offers as much certi-

tude as it is possible to achieve for anything in this uncertain world.

The report seems to us admirable in every respect—in the simplicity and lucidity with which it is presented, in the rigorous objectivity of its language, in the thoroughness with which it explores every contingency suggested by rumor and speculation and human curiosity, in the conscientious care with which its conclusions are set forth, in the calmness of consideration with which it assesses blame for inadequacies in the protection of the President and proposes specific remedies for the future. All the known facts about the tragedy in Dallas support the Commission's conclusion; and viewed as a whole, assembled and marshalled in their real relationship to each other, they afford plausibility to no other explanation of what happened on that melancholy November 22nd.

The report will be readily available today to every literate human being in the world—as indeed it should be, since it deals with an event of deep concern to all humanity. It tells a story of high drama and intense fascination. But in reading it one is filled again with the inexpressible sadness that moved the whole world into a measure of sympathy and mutual compassion on that dread day, not quite a year ago, when the news came that John F. Kennedy had died.

The Warren Commission report puts that day into its place in history. The facts are fairly assessed and ranged in perspective. What remains unknown is what remains always beyond the reach of mortal understanding—the reasons why youth and courage and vigor and promise are sometimes inexplicably snatched from among us in what seems to us the very midst of life.