

STUDY SEES GAPS IN WARREN DATA

Article Terms Inquiry Into Tippit Slaying Inadequate

A Columbia University research team has charged that the Warren Commission failed to interview all persons able to give information about events connected with the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas last Nov. 22.

George and Patricia Nash, a husband and wife who are research assistants at the university's Bureau of Applied Social Research, also declared that the commission's report "is less than complete."

In that connection, the Nashes said they also had found related incidents on the personnel and facilities at the Texas School Book Depository, from which the shots that killed the President were fired.

Their findings, based on an independent two-week study in Dallas that included interviews with some of the witnesses, are published in today's issue of *The New Leader*, a biweekly magazine sponsored by the American Labor Conference on International Affairs, Inc.

Unquestioned Witnesses

The magazine article, called "The Other Witnesses," says that the Warren Commission failed to question all those who saw the slaying of Patrolman J. D. Tippit, the Dallas police officer who was said to have stopped and questioned the President's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Nashes asserted they were able to locate two persons who were not questioned. They were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wright, who lived in an apartment about half a block from the site of the patrolman's murder.

The authors, describing Mr. Wright's report on what he saw when the patrolman was killed, conclude with a quote from him:

"I knew a man drove off in a gray car. Nothing in the world's going to change my opinion. I saw a man drive off in a gray coupe just as clear as I was born. They can say all they want about a fellow running away, but I can't accept this because I saw a fellow get in a car and drive away."

Noting that Mr. Wright's story differed sharply from the Warren Commission Report, the Nashes commented:

"We have no way of knowing how the investigation could have ignored Wright, whether his memory is accurate, or whether a plausible explanation for the mysterious man in the car might be a passerby unwilling to be a witness. Why didn't this account come to the commission's attention?"

Ambulance Driver Mentioned

The Nashes also point out that Mrs. Wright called for an ambulance and that the police records show it was her call that led to a response from the Dudley M. Hughes Funeral Home. The ambulance driver, Clayton Butler, also was not questioned by the commission, according to the authors.

Turning to the Warren Report, the Nashes noted that the commission had relied on testimony from Mrs. Helen Louise Markham on the Tippit slaying, and they described this information as "in direct contradiction" with that garnered from the people they interviewed.

On this point, the authors conclude:

"It appears quite possible that Mrs. Markham came on the scene only after hearing the shots; and without Mrs. Markham, there is no one to say precisely what happened between Tippit and Oswald."

Other Omissions Alleged

The Nashes also said the commission's report had "unresolved or untouched" these points:

Information on a second witness to the Tippit slaying interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She was identified as Acquilla Clemmons

The proximity of the site of the Tippit slaying to the home of Jack Ruby, who later killed Oswald in the Dallas prison.

The fact that at least one other man working in the Texas School Book Depository, from which Oswald was said to have fired the rifle that killed the President, was missing from the sixth-floor work crew.

The fact that there were four separate "rear doors, all of which were open and only one of which was guarded," at the depository.

Declaring that their aim was not to establish "any person's guilt or innocence," the Nashes said they had undertaken the study "to demonstrate that future historians and social scientists will not be able to reconstruct what occurred from the commission's report alone."

As the years pass, they concluded, "questions will become increasingly difficult to answer with any degree of accuracy."

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