

## Trevor-Roper

# Briton Attacks Warren Report

London

The perpetuation of doubts about the true story of President Kennedy's assassination continues on this side of the Atlantic.

Yesterday it was Oxford historian Hugh Trevor-Roper who argued at great length that the Warren Commission report on the murder was "suspect" and "slovenly."

Professor Trevor-Roper presented his views in a full-page article in the Sunday Times, a respected London newspaper with nationwide circulation. *Have you seen*

### EVIDENCE *this?*

Choosing three points of the Dallas story to argue his view that the Warren Commission "lacked independent judgment" and showed "culpable indifference" to the demands of reason, he said the records indicate that important police and medical evidence was suppressed and destroyed.

And the commission was blandly satisfied to do without it, he claimed.

Trevor-Roper is a contentious historian, often breaking into popular print and television to press his running feud with rival historian J.J.P. Taylor on the proper way to study history.

### DEBATE

They have argued dramatically about many things, including who is to blame for World War II. But their central debate is whether history should be studied as a series of straightforward events which tell nothing more than what happened (Taylor's view) or as pieces of a pattern which explain human society (Trevor-Roper's stand).

Both are distinguished scholars. Their quarrels have greatly added to their public position, so that when Trevor-Roper pronounces on a great historical incident people here perk up to listen.

His argument against the Warren Commission report differs from that of other critics by making no effort to insist there was a conspiracy or that some other version of what happened in Dallas is really true.

### WISHFUL

He simply states that the official report is not conclusive or credible enough, and that wishful emotion has made Americans determined to believe it in the face of reason.

But Trevor-Roper, who joined the controversial "who killed Kennedy" committee before the Warren report appeared, reported to the British public signs that even in America skepticism is beginning to spread.

"Orthodoxy," he concluded, "is not yet final. Heresy may still be heard."

The points he chose to demonstrate the commission's short-comings, in his view, were the lack of clear-cut police evidence on what led to Lee Harvey Oswald's first attempted arrest; the lack of official records on FBI and police questioning of Oswald for 12 hours after his arrest, and the lack of notes and medical records made at the time of the autopsy on the President.

### GAPS

Trevor-Roper said the commission should have been far more persistent and critical of explanations offered by officials for these and other gaps in the evidence.

"There is no evidence that Oswald took the gun into the Book Depository nor that he fired it. He may have done so but it is still to be proved," the historian said.

Like the many other analyses, Trevor-Roper's article also leaves it still to be proved that the Warren Commission failed to find the truth.

But he does prove that outside America, at least, the conviction is likely to go on as long as memory remains that President Kennedy's murder is an unsolved mystery.

*Times-Post Service*