

## Stepped-Up Security

# From Report: Action

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A White House committee on presidential safety, created overnight to consider the broad recommendations of the Warren Commission, planned swift action today to get proposals ready for the new Congress in January.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said the new security measures, growing out of the commission's investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, should be "one of the first orders of business" when Congress reconvenes.

The main conclusion by the seven-man presidential commission is that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone and not as part of any foreign or domestic conspiracy, murdered President Kennedy. And it said Jack Ruby acted as a loner in gunning down Oswald.

The main recommendation of the commission is legislation—to tighten protection of presidents and to make killing of a President or Vice President a federal crime.

But whether President Lyndon B. Johnson plans to submit any legislation apparently will await the advice of the four-man committee he appointed.

**THE COMMISSION** headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, criticized "deficiencies" in the Secret Service preparedness for Kennedy's fatal visit to Dallas last Nov. 22. It called for "complete overhaul" of the service's advance detection practices and other reforms, including closer liaison with the FBI and other agencies.

The President immediately named Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon to head a committee of four to work out recommendations for carrying out the Warren proposals.

A Treasury spokesman said Dillon intends "to get this moving as soon as he can" and has set a Jan. 1 target date for the completion of recommendations.

**A FIRST** meeting of the special group will be held on the earliest day that all are in Washington. One of them, Director John J. McCone of the Central Intelligence, was out of the capital today. The others are acting Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach and McGeorge Bundy, presidential assistant for national security affairs.

The Warren report

pinned down Oswald's guilt to the commission's own unqualified certainty, under a weight of eyewitness testimony and other evidence far more massive than was believed to exist.

**IT REVEALED** muddled testimony from Oswald's pretty Russian-speaking widow, Marina, that her unstable husband seven months earlier had threatened to kill former Vice President Richard M. Nixon with a pistol.

**But Oswald might actually have been threatening Johnson, not Nixon, the commission said. It was Johnson, then vice president, who was in Dallas at the time. His visit, April 23, 1963, was just 13 days after Oswald fired a night-time rifle shot that just missed former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker.**

The report urged that a cabinet committee assume responsibility for Presidential safety.

This new body might consider "suggestions" made to the commission not specifically endorsed by it—that the duty of protecting presidents be removed from the Secret Service. The executive and Congress should make the decision, it said.

**THE REPORT** praised the swift action of individ-

ual agents in the November tragedy. The response of some "was in the highest tradition of government service."

But the report called for more funds and personnel immediately, better lines of co-ordination between agencies, and a "complete overhaul" of advance detection practices.

It noted Kennedy's own comment to an aide, on the day he died — that:

**"If anybody really wanted to shoot the President of the United States, it was not a very difficult job — all one had to do was get a high building someday with a telescopic rifle, and there was nothing anybody could do to defend against such an attempt."**

But the report critically recited a chain of what it called official failures, omissions and errors, including:

1. The Secret Service "as a matter of practice did not investigate, or cause to be checked, any building along the motorcade route" to be used by Kennedy, Johnson and Connally.

2. The FBI failed to alert the Secret Service to the presence in Dallas of Oswald, the lonely, brooding one-time defector to Russia and pro-Castro agitator.

3. The Dallas police failed to heed adequately two telephoned threats against Oswald's life, as well as a personal warning from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to provide "utmost security" for the prisoner. Ruby, a pistol-carrying nightclub owner, walked unchallenged into a disorderly jail corridor jammed with police and newsmen; he shot Oswald dead and destroyed all hope of a confession.

4. With the help of "a running commentary by the police" which included unchecked and erroneous reports, "a great deal of misinformation was disseminated to a worldwide audi-

ence" by the press, radio and television. The commission criticized police and press alike.

**"THE PUBLICIZING** of unchecked information provided much of the basis for the myths and rumors that came into being soon after the President's death," said the commission.

**"The erroneous disclosures became the basis for distorted reconstructions and interpretations of the assassination."**

The report called on representatives of the bar, the news media, and law enforcement groups to work out together ethical standards for collecting and presenting news "so that there will be no interference with pending criminal investigations, court proceedings, or the right of individuals to a fair trial."

Aware that millions in Europe and some in America suspect that a foreign left-wing conspiracy—or a U. S. right-wing plot—killed the young President, the commission devoted an entire 32-page appendix to "speculations and rumors," rebutting them item by item.

**IT PILED UP** mountainous evidence, each scrap of it footnoted to the documentation in more than 20 volumes of testimony still to be published, to support its findings that:

● The lonely, tormented, 24 year old Marxist—a "better than average" marksman as a Marine and "an excellent shot" as civilians go—killed Kennedy from an ideally situated sniper's nest in the building where he worked.

● The first, nonfatal bullet which hit Kennedy pierced his throat and "probably" was the one that wounded Gov. Connally. Another crashed through Kennedy's head as he slumped. It virtually exploded his skull.

● A third bullet—which could have been the first, middle or last of three shots fired—went wild. It missed even the slow-moving car. It may have been the last, fired at the greatest distance.

● The time lapse from first to last shots was from 4.8 to more than 7 seconds. Marine marksmanship ex-

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perts said Oswald was capable of firing three shots with two hits in that time. It was a "very easy target," moving in direct line of fire.

● The President was alive, in the medical sense, but in "hopeless" condition on arrival at the hospital five minutes later. In 25 more minutes life was gone.

● Except for a desperate lunge by a secret service agent, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy probably would have fallen from the rear deck of the auto and been killed by the following car. She cannot remember climbing onto the back of the car.

● One almost complete bullet was found and two good-sized fragments of another. They were fired from Oswald's rifle and no other, according to positive ballistic identification.

● The rifle found in the sniper's nest was the Italian-made carbine with telescopic sight bought by Oswald by mail in March. It was identified by his wife Marina; by the serial number and seller's stock number; by Oswald's palm print; and by threads from the shirt he wore that day (or a shirt of the same material and color).

● Oswald's handwriting was on the mail order. It also was on the order for the pistol which apparently killed Policeman J. D. Tippit during Oswald's flight. He used the alias he had used as a pro-Castro demonstrator in New Orleans, "A. J. Hidell," an alteration of "Fidel."

● One eyewitness, Howard L. Brennan, saw the rifleman "taking positive aim" and firing the last shot from the sixth-floor corner window of the Texas School Book Depository. He picked Oswald from a police lineup as the man most resembling the sniper.

"He drew the gun back," said Brennan, ". . . and maybe paused for another second as though to assure himself (sic) that he hit his mark, and then he disappeared."

● Six other witnesses saw the protruding rifle, or saw it fired, or saw it being withdrawn slowly. Some saw the moving figure in the area where book cartons, some bearing Oswald's palm and fingerprints, were later found to have been piled to form a seat and marksman's parapet.

● "No direct or indirect relationship . . . has been discovered" between the ex-Marine and his slayer, Ruby. Nor could the commission find any trace of evidence that Ruby, since convicted of murder, had help from police or anyone else in getting at Oswald. The commission accepts Ruby's story—that he simply entered by a ramp from the street, unnoticed. The credentials of some reporters were not checked, either.

● The commission found no evidence that neither Oswald or Ruby "was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy."

Ruby's reaction to the assassination "appears to have been one of genuine shock and grief," the commission said. His activities revealed no sign of conspiratorial conduct.

● It could find no evidence to show that Oswald was "employed, persuaded, or encouraged by any foreign government . . . or that he was an agent of any foreign government."

● It cited Secretary of State Dean Rusk's testimony, before the commission, that he knew of no "scrap of evidence indicating that the Soviet Union" wanted to eliminate Kennedy. Rusk went on:

" . . . it would be an act of rashness and madness . . . it has not been our impression that madness has characterized the actions of the Soviet leadership in recent years."

● It found what it considered solid evidence, confirmed by "confidential sources of extremely high reliability available to the United States in Mexico," that Oswald's mysterious trip to Mexico City was a futile effort to get an "in-transit visa" through Cuba to Russia, not a tryst with Cuban plotters. He came home "disappointed and discouraged" six weeks before the assassination.

AND SINCE all its evidence compelled a conclusion that Oswald acted alone, the commission said, "Therefore, to determine the motives of the assassination of President Kennedy, one must look to the assassin himself."

The commission looked long and hard at 24 year old Lee Oswald, through the

eyes of scores of witnesses. It found a fatherless, unhappy, withdrawn, truant child, diagnosed by a New York City psychiatrist as having "personality pattern disturbance with schizoid (split personality) features and passive-aggressive tendencies."

Mrs. Evelyn Siegel, a social worker, found an "emotionally starved, affectionless youngster" who felt that "his mother never gave a damn for him."

He "lived for the time he would become 17 years old to join the Marines;" in his half-brother's view, he wanted to escape "the yoke of oppression from my mother," Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, now living in Fort Worth.

**HIS CAREER** as a marine was a failure, though he did score two points above the minimum requirement for a sharpshooter's badge.

He left the marines with \$1,500 of saved-up pay and used it to defect to Russia.

Oswald soon was disenchanted with Russia, too. He married 19 year old Marina on the rebound from a dashed romance with another girl, and sought permission to take her home. After months-long delays and difficulties he succeeded in June 1962—with the help of a \$435.71 "repatriation loan" from the embassy in Moscow. By then there was a baby, Joan Lee.

**MARITAL LIFE** in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was stormy. Oswald's jobs were few, briefly held and poorly paid.

He beat Marina regularly. She frequently had a black eye, as she did on the day of the assassination.

"The commission does not believe that the relations between Oswald and his wife caused him to assassinate the President. It is unlikely that the motivation was that simple," the report said.

"Perhaps the most outstanding conclusion . . . is that Oswald was profoundly alienated from the world in which he lived. His life was characterized by isolation, frustration, and failure . . ."

"It is apparent . . . that Oswald was moved by an overriding hostility to his environment . . . long before

the assassination he expressed his hatred for American society and acted in protest against it. . . .

**"HE SOUGHT FOR** himself a place in history—a role as the 'great man.' . . . he also had demonstrated a capacity to act decisively and without regard to the consequences . . .

**"Out of these and many other factors . . . there emerged a man capable of assassinating President Kennedy."**

On the morning of Nov. 22 Oswald left for work before anyone else arose. He carried a long brown paper package which he told a neighbor contained curtain rods. For the first time, he left his wedding ring in a cup on his dresser.

A long brown home-made paper bag was found in the sniper's nest later that day. It bore Oswald's fingerprint and palm print. Oswald had taken his rifle from its hiding place in a blanket in the garage, said the commission, disassembled it, and carried it to work. His wife, later on, was astonished to find it gone.

At 12:30 that day, another wife was cradling her husband's shattered head in her arms and crying: "Oh, God, they have shot my husband. I love you, Jack."

Two cars back, Johnson was startled by the sharp report. His testimony:

"But I had no time to speculate as to its origin because Agent (Rufus) Youngblood turned in a flash, immediately after the first explosion, hitting me on the shoulder, and shouted to all of us in the back seat to get down.

"I was pushed down by Agent Youngblood. Almost in the same moment in which he hit or pushed me, he vaulted over the back seat and sat on me . . ."

A theory of Marina Oswald that her husband might have been trying to kill Gov. Connally instead of Kennedy was discounted by the commission. In the way that Oswald had arranged his hideaway, he would have had to shoot through Kennedy to hit Connally.

**THE REPORT** built rebuttal on rebuttal to scores of rumors and theories. It found total rejection of the

claim — offered by his mother in lecture appearances, interviews and home-made press releases — that Oswald might have been a secret agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, slain as a scapegoat.

**THERE WAS** no evidence that Oswald was an "agent, employe or informant" of any government agency, the commission said; or that any federal, state or local official was involved in any "conspiracy, subversion or disloyalty to the U. S. Government"; or that Jack Ruby had help from any Dallas policeman.

It described the police decision to transfer Oswald to the county jail in full public view before television cameras as "unsound," and the arrangements "inadequate."

"Of critical importance," it said, "was the fact that news media representatives and others were not excluded from the basement even after the police were notified of threats to Oswald's life. These deficiencies contributed to the death of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Ballistics tests proved that Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 mm. rifle was the assassination weapon "to the exclusion of all other weapons," the report said. And all the shots came from behind and above the Presidential car.

**THE COMMISSION** questioned 552 witnesses, marshaled the investigative resources of 24 federal agencies and four committees of congress, used the reports from 25,000 FBI interviews and 1,500 secret service interviews.

The bipartisan commission was unanimous in both its findings and recommendations.