

Oswald Alone Shot JFK; Security Guard Criticized

'Serious' Flaws in Protection

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WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission found serious flaws in the protective ring around John F. Kennedy and today proposed ways of strengthening the guard for President Johnson and his successors.

The Secret Service was "seriously deficient" in its intelligence work and the FBI "took an unduly restrictive view of its role" in failing to give the Secret Service information on Lee Harvey Oswald before Nov. 22, 1963, the report said.

The FBI has been virtually immune from official criticism in its 40 years under J. Edgar Hoover.

The Commission also cited "a breach of discipline" by nine members of the Secret Service in Fort Worth. The agents had up to three beers and a mixed drink and a half after midnight. One stayed out until 5 a. m. Nov. 22. The report said there was no evidence these men could have averted the tragedy, but that "it is conceivable (they) might have been more alert in the Dallas motorcade."

KEY PROPOSALS

"Absolute security" is impossible for a president, said the seven-man commission, and its strong recommendations could at best limit chances of success for an assassin. Key proposals were:

A cabinet-level committee to observe the Secret Service and other Federal agencies in their protection of a president. The committee might study whether protection should be removed from the Secret Service and put elsewhere.

- To make assassination, assault or plots against the president and vice president a federal crime.

- A "complete overhaul" of Secret Service facilities to detect possible assassins before they can act. The most advanced data - processing machines, more personnel and funds, and markedly increased cooperation with the FBI, State Department, CIA and others were urged.

FOUR SHOT

Four American presidents in 100 years have been shot to death, the report noted: Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy.

But the president's "very position as representative of the people prevents him from

effectively shielding himself from the people. He cannot and will not take the precaution of a dictator. . . ."

The report discussed specific troubling inadequacies in the Secret Service and to a lesser extent, the FBI.

The Secret Service, an arm of the Treasury Department which has protected presidents since 1894, had only 12 specialists and three clerks in its Protective Research Section on Nov. 22. Their job was to keep tabs on all who might be a danger to the president.

100 SERIOUS RISKS

Of the 400 individuals under regular surveillance, only 100 were seen as serious risks and 12 to 15 as highly dangerous. Although Ambassador Adlai Stevenson had been assaulted in Dallas the month before, no names in this Secret Service file were in the Fort Worth - Dallas area, the report asserted.

It was in this crucial area of advance warnings that the breakdown occurred, said the Warren group. Although the FBI, the State Department, the CIA, and Navy intelligence all had files on Oswald, none of them had tipped off the Secret Service he might be a danger.

Dallas FBI Agent James P. Hosty Jr. had such a file

on Oswald, had learned 18 days before the assassination that he worked in the Texas school book depository and had heard 17 days before that he was a "Trotskyite Communist."

But he testified that even if he had remembered that the president's route led past the depository building, he would not have cited him to the Secret Service as a threat.

Hosty swore he had no reason to think Oswald would kill the president, although a Dallas police lieutenant contradicted him in saying Hosty told him after the assassination that the FBI had information Oswald was capable of the killing.

Both J. Edgar Hoover and his assistant, Alan H. Belmont, defended Hosty. But the commission found "the FBI took an unduly restrictive view of its responsibilities in preventive intelligence work."

The report conceded the Secret Service's requests to federal agencies for tip-offs were "vague," but it made this conclusion:

"There was much knowledge in the hands of the FBI about Oswald: the knowledge of his arrogance and hostility to the United States, his pro - Castro tendencies,

his lies when interrogated by the FBI, his trip to Mexico where he was in contact with Soviet authorities, his presence in the school book depository job and its location along the route of the motorcade.

"All this does seem to amount to enough to have induced an alert agency, such as the FBI . . . to list Oswald as a potential threat to the safety of the President."

The Secret Service, through Agent Robert I. Bouck, in charge of the Protective Research Section, testified if it had such information and had known he had been courtmartialled on a gun charge, it would have been on the alert for Oswald.

The Warren group said the Secret Service's policy of not checking out buildings along the presidential motorcade route and its watch on buildings from the street were "inadequate" and should be amended.

Protection of the President has been improved since the death of John F. Kennedy, but much remains to be done, the report said: coordination among the federal agencies is better and the Secret Service is getting more names of potential killers, but the net is still faulty; the service has asked for 205 more agents, but the pay is too low; President Johnson's automobile is better protected (but he often does not use it.)

"This Commission," the report concludes, "can recommend no procedures for future protection of our presidents which will guarantee security"—but the commission proposals "would greatly advance the security of the office."