

New Evidence

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'Full Probe' Into Oswald's Guilt, Motives

Our Correspondent

Washington

The case of the murder of the President did not end after all with the slaying of his suspected assassin, it became clear here yesterday.

President Johnson himself said: "The people of the Nation may be sure that all of the facts will be made public."

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INQUIRY

A short time earlier the attorney general of Texas, Waggoner Carr, announced here he will call a public court of inquiry to probe all facets of the assassination.

It came, too, after Congressman Hale Boggs (Dem.-La.), assistant Democratic leader of the House, had advocated a blue-ribbon congressional inquiry "far above any suggestion of partisanship."

Texas Attorney General Carr, who delayed his press-conference announcement a half hour while he watched the President's funeral on television, flew back to Austin to confer today on the exact time and place for the Texas court of inquiry.

SUBSTITUTE

This court, with power of subpoena, will serve as a substitute for a trial that cannot be—the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin suspect slain by Jack Ruby, a Dallas night club operator.

Carr said he and his staff would compose the court, working in cooperation with "outstanding jurists and lawyers."

"A full and complete report on the findings will be sent to the Department of Justice," he said.

SEPARATE

The Justice Department, under Executive orders, apparently will conduct its own, separate inquiry, without waiting for the Carr-court findings.

Federal officials, it was known, were concerned about two things: they want the nation to know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, whether Oswald was the assassin, and they want to dispose of an issue raised in Soviet Union propaganda—that the President's murder has become an anti-Communist weapon.

Boggs, too, felt it was important that Congress establish the full facts so that no doubts may linger in American minds.

D.A.

All these plans seem to issue from the announcement of Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade that Oswald's death closed the case of the assassination and no more facts need be released.

Was Oswald, in fact, the killer of the President? What is the known evidence?

Wade, in a reversal of his own stand, revealed what he said were the facts gathered by Dallas police. These were:

- That Oswald's fingerprints (not, as he first said, palm prints) were found on the murder rifle, an Italian

carcano 6.5 multimeter-dolt action model with a telescopic sight, purchased from a mail-order house.

- That Oswald's palm print was found on a box in the sixth-floor window "nest" in the textbook warehouse from which the fatal shot was fired.

- That paraffin tests indicated he had fired a "gun"—pistol or rifle identified. (These tests are no admissible as evidence, but criminologists say they can sometimes reveal the type of weapon, because pistol powder is of a finer grain than that of a rifle.)

- That a map of Dallas found in Oswald's room traced the projected path of the bullet that killed the President.

- That he was an expert marksman. (The assassin

had to be: the distance was 250 feet, the target moving.)

- That photos, also found in his room, showed him with both a rifle of similar make to the murder weapon and a pistol of the make that killed a policeman, J. D. Tippitt, in the hunt for the assassin.

- That Oswald's Russian-born wife admitted he owned such a rifle, and such a pistol.

- That the rifle was ordered from Chicago in Oswald's handwriting, though not under his name, and sent to a postal box rented under a name purportedly assumed by him.

- That an identification in his pocketbook bore the same alias as used for the post-office box.

- That he was an employee of the textbook repository from which the fatal bullet was fired.

- That on the morning of the assassination he carried

to work an oblong package and when stopped by a policeman, he said it contained window shades, whereas, police later said, it held the fateful rifle.

- That he had sent a threatening letter to Texas Governor John Connally, wounded in the same car with the President, and vowed he would "employ any means" to get even for a grievance.

- That witnesses saw him shoot Officer Tippitt.

- That witnesses saw him on the sixth floor of the book warehouse with the oblong package.

Certainly tell-tale evidence, all this, that would seem to leave no unanswered question, no reasonable doubt of guilt.

DOUBTS

Yet doubts were inevitable. Oswald stoutly maintained, through long hours of grilling, that he had not fired the

shot that killed the President.

No one saw him fire that shot. Witnesses placed him on the sixth floor of the textbook warehouse that morning, and on the ground floor not long after the assassination—but he was an employee.

He was, observers, said, a "cool character." He exhibited none of the wild fanatic's pride in a warped role of savior.

His lack of the zealot's twisted purpose, his bold coolness, might be attributed to something else—his real target was not the President, but the Governor of Texas. This question, clouded by fact that he was a marksman, will nonetheless remain unanswered now.

MOVE?

He may well have carried to his grave another riddle—if, indeed, he was the assassin, was he alone in his awful mission, or were there accomplices?

Oswald styled himself a Marxist; he had gone to Russia a few years ago with the announced purpose of becoming a Soviet citizen but, rejected, had returned with a Russian bride. He had a while back distributed Fair Play for Cuba (a Communist front) leaflets on a New Orleans corner.

Was he motivated by—Castroism?

All available evidence indicates he was at best a confused traveler on the road of Marxist doctrine, that he had returned from Russian dis-

appointed at his life there.

In his home, with so much other and more direct evidence, was found Communist literature that some say could indicate a motivation. Yet this was ambivalent—literature from two perennially feuding American-Marxist parties—the Communist party of the United States and the Socialist Workers Party, the latter a splinter group founded by disciples of the exiled Bolshevik, Leon Trotsky.

Whatever he was—Communist, Trotskyite, an embittered man living on the margin of American society—there is no evidence he played an important role in leftist groups.

However, in September he crossed the border at Laredo, Tex., drove to Mexico City, and there sought first a Cuban visa, then a Russian visa, for another trip to

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Russia. Disgruntled by the delays he encountered at both embassies, he came back across the border on October 3.

the assassin, that big question: Why? The bullet that Jack Ruby sent into Oswald's stomach took with it a mystery that may stand forever insoluble.

So there remains, if he was