

# Warren group expected to duck on Oswald

**T**HE UNSOLVED CRIME of the century is two months old. It may never be solved. Within the next six months, however, the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy is expected to issue a final report that does not differ substantially from that originally submitted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dallas police. This appears probable to some observers because (1) 1964 is an election year, and (2) the commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, seemingly has confined itself to a general inquiry without reference to specific issues, such as the guilt or innocence of slain Lee Oswald, the man who was accused of the assassination.

Political considerations, according to New York Post writer Milton Viorst, weigh heavily with the commission. Writing with apparent authority from Washington Jan. 19, Viorst said the seven-man panel "plans to step up operations in hope of completing its report before the national conventions this summer.

The commission . . . wants any furor to die out before the campaigns begin."

The writer said counsel J. Lee Rankin, former Solicitor General, "has decided not to conduct a separate and independent investigation but to rely on the reports submitted by the agencies involved, checking their word against that of witnesses and other agencies." The reports were compiled by the FBI, Secret Service and Dallas police—all of which are agreed

that Oswald was the "lone and unaided gunman who shot and killed President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22."

**NO CRITICISM:** Viorst said that "it is considered certain that the commission's report will not dwell on criticism of any agency—whether the FBI, Secret Service or the Dallas police. Such criticism would almost certainly set off a round of recrimination." It was also recognized, he wrote, that the panel "must assure the

agencies involved of decent treatment in order to get decent cooperation."

According to the Post, the committee report will concern itself mainly with how to prevent a recurrence of a Presidential assassination. The newspaper continued: "It is far too early to tell whether the commission will write its report so that criticism can be read between the lines."

Since the panel was named by President Johnson Nov. 29, it has become evident that it would not delve beyond the limits delineated by the FBI in its report last month. According to Viorst, "Rankin is known to oppose setting up a new bureaucracy to conduct the investigation. An experienced hand in dealing with government agencies, he is known to be confident of his ability to detect any attempt to cover up failures or dereliction of duty."

This presumably refers to the question of failure to protect the President in Dallas, rather than to reports that the FBI may have more to cover up than poor police work in Dallas Nov. 22. It has been speculated that Oswald had been contacted by the FBI to act as an undercover operative in anti-subversive activities. This would explain why the FBI did not include Oswald among a list of persons submitted to the Secret Service and Dallas authorities for surveillance during the Kennedy visit.

**THE RUBY CASE:** Lawyers for Jack Ruby, who shot Oswald Nov. 22, announced Jan. 19 that they would submit a psychologist's report indicating the 52-year-old nightclub operator suffered from organic brain damage. In making the report known before the Feb. 3 trial, the attorneys said, "we wanted people to begin to realize what a pitiful fellow this man is."

The lawyers also revealed that the "defense will show that he was in love with the President—whatever overtones you want to put on that." If it can be proved that Ruby was insane at the time of the murder, it is possible under Texas law that he will be granted immediate freedom or be committed briefly to a mental institution.

Ruby's attorneys are trying to have the trial transferred from Dallas, where — they charge—"a hostile press of much power" wanted their client to be executed. The lawyers declared that the press had

been guilty of "warped and fantastic reporting."

Mrs. Marina Oswald, widow of the suspect, is scheduled to testify before the commission in a few weeks. It is expected that she will remain sequestered in Dallas by Secret Service agents until then. The 22-year-old mother of two children is still undergoing intensive questions according to newspaper accounts. A New York Times reporter noted Jan. 19: "Agents from the FBI continue to interview her, probing for any fresh information. If her husband had been involved in a conspiracy to kill the President, a theory discounted by most investigators, she might yet furnish a lead."