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A4WX (600) (AGENCIES AND RADIO OUT)

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THE WORLD TODAY  
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ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS ANALYST

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 30 (AP)-THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE, WHOSE JOB IS PROTECTING PRESIDENTS, DIDN'T COME OUT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION SMELLING LIKE A ROSE. ANYTHING BUT.

AFTER IT GOT THROUGH INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS, THE SEVEN-MAN COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN BLAMED THE SECRET SERVICE FOR A NUMBER OF SHORTCOMINGS.

THIS AGENCY HAS HAD THE TASK OF PROTECTING PRESIDENTS SINCE AT LEAST 1902. BUT THE PICTURE OF IT WHICH EMERGES FROM THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MAKES IT LOOK UNIMAGINATIVE, UNDERSTAFFED AND OUT-OF-DATE.

IT'S NO WONDER, AFTER READING THE COMMISSION'S CRITICISM, THAT THE WARREN GROUP RAISED THIS QUESTION: SHOULD THE SECRET SERVICE BE FURTHER ENTRUSTED WITH PROTECTING PRESIDENTS OR SHOULD SOME OTHER QOQKX BE GIVEN THE JOB?

THE COMMISSION CALLED THE SERVICE "INADEQUATE"--WHICH SEEMS LIKE A MILD WORD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES--IN:

ITS ADVANCE PREPARATIONS FOR KENNEDY'S TRIP TO DALLAS; ITS PLANS FOR IDENTIFYING AND PROTECTING AGAINST PERSONS CONSIDERED THREATS TO A PRESIDENT; ITS RULES FOR EVEN DETERMINING WHO SUCH PERSONS ARE; AND ITS PLANS FOR DETECTING AN ASSASSIN IN BUILDINGS A PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE PASSES.

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AT THE TIME OF KENNEDY'S TRIP TO DALLAS, THE COMMISSION SAID, THE SECRET SERVICE "AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE" DID NOT INVESTIGATE OR CAUSE TO BE CHECKED ANY BUILDING ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, WHO WORKED IN THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY WHICH THE KENNEDY MOTORCADE PASSED, SHOT THE PRESIDENT FROM THE BUILDING'S SIXTH STORY WINDOW.

THE COMMISSION COMPLAINED THAT THE SECRET SERVICE'S PRECAUTIONS WERE "TOO LARGELY DIRECTED AT THE 'CRANK' THREAT" AND NOT ENOUGH TOWARD OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED A SOURCE OF

DANGER.

OSWALD IS AN EXAMPLE.

ALTHOUGH HE HAD DEFECTED TO RUSSIA, THEN RETURNED, DISTRIBUTED PRO-CASTRO PAMPHLETS, THEN TRIED TO LEAVE FOR CUBA AND RUSSIA AGAIN, AND WAS INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI, THE SECRET SERVICE HAD NO RECORD OF HIM IN DALLAS.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

BECAUSE THE SECRET SERVICE'S MAIN INTEREST HAS BEEN IN PERSONS MAKING DIRECT THREATS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT, THE FBI DID NOT SEND IT INFORMATION ON OSWALD.

THE COMMISSION CRITICIZED THE FBI FOR NOT DOING SO ALTHOUGH, TO THIS WRITER IT SEEMS AN UNFAIR CRITICISM, AND THE COMMISSION ITSELF SAID ITS CONCLUSION MAY BE "TINGED WITH HINDSIGHT," AND FOR THIS REASON:

ASWX (AGENCIES AND RADIO OUT)

J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF THE FBI, TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMISSION AND AFTER SUMMARIZING THE BUREAU'S INVESTIGATIVE INTEREST IN OSWALD PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION, HE CONCLUDED THAT:

"THERE WAS NOTHING UP TO THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION THAT GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THIS MAN WAS A DANGEROUS CHARACTER WHO MIGHT DO HARM TO THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT."

OSWALD HAD TRIED TO KILL FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER--BY SHOOTING AT HIM THROUGH HIS WINDOW--MONTHS BEFORE HE KILLED THE PRESIDENT, BUT NO ONE KNEW OF THIS UNTIL AFTER THE ASSASSINATION EXCEPT OSWALD'S WIFE.

IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD MADE ITS BROAD INVESTIGATION INTO RELATIVES, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND OLD ACQUAINTANCES OF OSWALD THAT THE INFORMATION CAME ABOUT HIS INCLINATION TOWARD VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD, SUCH AS CHASING HIS BROTHER WITH A KNIFE AND THROWING IT AT HIM.

THE COMMISSION THINKS THE FBI SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE SECRET SERVICE ABOUT OSWALD AND SAID IT THOUGHT BOTH AGENCIES TOOK TOO NARROW A VIEW OF THEIR SEPARATE RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT'S QUESTIONABLE THAT IF THE SECRET SERVICE HAD LEARNED OF OSWALD FROM THE FBI--SINCE HE HAD MADE NO THREAT AGAINST KENNEDY--IT WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HIM DANGEROUS ENOUGH, BECAUSE OF ITS LIMITED MANPOWER, TO INVESTIGATE HIM.

THE COMMISSION HAS CALLED FOR AN OVERHAUL OF THE SECRET SERVICE AND MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN INVESTIGATIVE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

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