

29 NOV. 1966

EA57

AMS BUDGET (780)

EDITORIAL SURVEY

BY ~~RELMAN MORIN~~

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, NOV. 29 (AP)-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS GENERALLY
~~AGREE THAT "CONFUSION" AND~~

AGREE THAT "CONFUSION" AND "DOUBT" PERSIST TODAY IN THE PUBLIC
MIND ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, BUT THEY
DISAGREE SHARPLY OVER THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF A NEW INVESTIGATION.

A NATIONWIDE SURVEY OF THE NUMEROUS EDITORIALS COMMENTING ON THE
WARREN COMMISSION AND ITS CRITICS REVEALED THE WIDE CLEAVAGE OF
OPINION.

QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE BLUE
RIBBON COMMISSION, HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, WHICH
REPORTED, SEPT. 27, 1964, THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD--ALONE AND WITHOUT
CONSPIRATORS--ASSASSINATED THE PRESIDENT.

THIS FINDING HAS BEEN CHALLENGED IN VARYING DEGREES AND ON
DIFFERENT GROUNDS FROM MANY QUARTERS.

THEREFORE, SOME EDITORIALS CALLED FOR REOPENING OF THE INQUIRY,
EITHER BY CONGRESS OR SOME ELECT COMMITTEE OTHERS, HOWEVER,
SAID NO NEW EVIDENCE HAS EMERGED AND A NEW REVIEW WOULD SERVE
NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND MIGHT ADD TO THE DOUBTS AND CONFUSION.

TYPICAL OF THE OPPOSING VIEWS WERE THESE EDITORIALS:

THE BOSTON GLOBE: "...THERE COULD BE NO LOSS BUT THERE
COULD BE CONSIDERABLE GAIN, AT LEAST IN NATIONWIDE PEACE OF MIND
AND CONSCIENCE, IN TAKING THE NEW LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE WHICH THE
DOUBTERS DEMAND. UNIVERSAL CERTAINTY IS NOT POSSIBLE IN TERRIBLE
TRAGEDIES. BUT THE REDUCTION OF UNCERTAINTY IS VITAL, WHERE IT
CAN BE REDUCED..."

THE NEW YORK WORLD JOURNAL TRIBUNE: "VIRTUALLY EVERY SCRAP
OF SO-CALLED EVIDENCE, EVERY TORTURED ARGUMENT ADVANCED BY THE
DOUBTERS, WAS CAREFULLY EVALUATED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION IN
REACHING ITS CONCLUSIONS.

"OUT OF RESPECT FOR COMMON DECENCY AND FOR THE MEMORY OF
A MARTYRED PRESIDENT, WE THINK IT IS TIME TO ASK THE GHOULS, THE
BUCK-CHASERS, THE SENSATION-MONGERS AND THE CHARACTER ASSASSINS
TO DESIST--TO SHUT UP UNTIL OR UNLESS THEY CAN PUT UP, AS SO
FAR THEY HAVE NOTORIOUSLY FAILED TO DO."

THE OAKLAND (CALIF.) TRIBUNE AGREED. "THE CURRENT FUROR OVER SOME OF THE CONCLUSIONS IN THE WARREN REPORT IS BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN SPECULATION AND THE OPINIONS OF SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO DID NOT HAVE THE INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE WARREN COMMISSION," THE TRIBUNE SAID. "THEY HAVE GUESSED AND GUESSED AND GUESSED AGAIN BUT GUESSES ARE NOT FACT...WE DOUBT THAT ANOTHER OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION...IS NECESSARY OR WOULD PRODUCE ANY NEW EVIDENCE THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE THE CONCLUSIONS MADE BY THE WARREN COMMISSION."

BUT THE DENVER POST TOOK THE OPPOSITE VIEW. "THE MORE RESPONSIBLE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S CRITICS, IT SEEMS TO US, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING THAT THERE IS 'REASONABLE DOUBT' ABOUT A NUMBER OF CONCLUSIONS IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. AND WE AGREE THAT SOME OF THE PRODUCERS OF THE COMMISSION LEAVE ROOM FOR DOUBT SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO NAG THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE.

"IN LIGHT OF THIS, THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME INDEPENDENT DETERMINATION, BASED ON A DEFINITIVE REVIEW OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S WORK, ON WHETHER ANOTHER INVESTIGATION IS IN ORDER."

THE NEW YORK TIMES RECALLED THAT IT PRAISED THE WORK OF THE WARREN COMMISSION TWO YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, IN AN EDITORIAL CAPTIONED "UNANSWERED QUESTIONS," THE TIMES SAID:

"THERE ARE ENOUGH SOLID DOUBTS OF THOUGHTFUL CITIZENS, AMONG THE SHRILL ATTACKS ON THE WARREN COMMISSION, NOW TO REQUIRE ANSWERS. FURTHER DIGNIFIED SILENCE, OR MERELY MORE DENIALS BY THE COMMISSION OR ITS STAFF, ARE NO LONGER ENOUGH.

"WE HAVE COME TO THIS CONCLUSION NOT BECAUSE OF ANY OF THE SPECIFIC CHARGES BROUGHT BY THE DOZENS OF BOOKS, TV SHOWS AND ARTICLES ABOUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION BUT BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL CONFUSION IN THE PUBLIC MIND RAISED BY THE PUBLICATION OF ALLEGATIONS AND THE MANY PUZZLING QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED...IT WOULD SEEM THE COMMISSION ITSELF HAS THE MOST REASON TO ANSWER. CERTAINLY, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CHANCE."

FROM COAST TO COAST, THE CONTROVERSY BROUGHT THESE EXPRESSIONS:

EA59

BUFFALO, KN.Y.) EVENING NEWS--"SO UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FEAR A REOPENING OF THE 'KENNEDY MURDER CASE' WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ALLAY DRSTS NOW CURRENT THAN TO AGGRAVATE THEM WITH A PUBLICITY EXTRAVAGANZA."

CHICAGO'S AMERICAN--"MORE DISTURBING ARE POLLS THAT SHOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE COMMISSION REPORT...A NEW INQUIRY WOULD BE PAINFUL...SUCH AN INQUIRY, HOWEVER, COULD SERVE TO QUIET THE FUROR AND APPREHENSION WHICH STILL SURROUND A SLAYING THAT SHOOK THE WORLD."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH--"ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENTS IN DALLAS HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED; PROBABLY THEY NEVER WILL BE... NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR CONGRESS OR THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A NEW COMMISSION...WHOSE OBJECTIVE IT WOULD BE TO SIFT THE NEW THEORIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADVANCED SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT IN SEPTEMBER 1964, RECEIVE ANY NEW EVIDENCE AND CONDUCT WHAT FURTHER INQUIRY MIGHT BE INDICATED FROM TIME TO TIME.

"ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COMMISSION SHOULD NOT BE OPEN TO INTERPRETATION AS A REFLECTION ON THE WORK OF THE WARREN COMMISSION..."

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NEW YORK--FIRST ADD, EDITORIAL ROUNDUP ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION (A59) X X X THE WARREN COMMISSION..."

MEANWHILE, THE MORNING NEWSPAPER IN ST. LOUIS, THE GLOBE-DEMOCRAT, SAID, "THE BILLOW OF DISPUTE, WASHING OVER THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT RECENTLY, SEEMS A VAIN AND CONTRIVED WRANGLE, WHICH HAS DISCLOSED NO NEW FACTS BUT A WELTER OF INTERPRETATION AND PERSONAL OPINION . . .

"ARE WE TO BE SUBJECTED TO A RASH OF SURMISE AND QUESTIONING ON EACH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S TRAGIC ASSASSINATION? " " " THIS SEEMS TO US FUTILE, UNHEALTHY TO THE POINT OF BEING MACABRE AND UNJUSTIFIED BY KNOWN FACTS. . .

"THE NATION GENERALLY CONSIDERS THE WHOLE 'ISSUE' A HOLLOW CONTROVERSY, FABRICATED ON OPINION, BEARING NO NEW FACTS. IT SEEMS SINGULARLY FUTILE."

LF626PCS

EB4

(780)

NEW YORK--FIRST ADD EDITORIALSURVEY (A57) X X X COMMISSION..."

FLINT (MICH.) JOURNAL--"WE DO NOT ASK FOR UNQUESTIONING ACCEPTANCE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT BY ALL, BUT WE DO INSIST ON SOME CONCRETE, COURT-PROOF BIT OF EVIDENCE BEFORE WE WILL CONVICT THE WARREN COMMISSION OF EITHER CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE OR, WORSE, TREASON.

"THE VERDICT STILL STANDS AND THERE IS NO REASON AT THIS TIME TO REOPEN THE CASE."

PORTLAND (ME.) PRESS HERALD---"THE MOVING BODY SHOULD BE CONGRESS... AND ONLY CONGRESS CAN COMMAND THE VERY FINEST TALENTS AND THE INTEGRITY NEEDED TO DIG OUT EVERY POSSIBLE FACT IN THE KENNEDY TRAGEDY...LET'S HAVE ALL THE TRUTH THAT COMPETENT MEN CAN DISCOVER..."

PHILADELPHIA EVENING BULLETIN--"THE RECENT STATEMENTS OF NAVY PATHOLOGISTS WHO CONDUCTED THE AUTOPSY AND WHO HAVE LOOKED AGAIN AT THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND X-RAYS COMPLETELY DISPROVE THE CLAIMS OF AMATEUR INVESTIGATORS WHO HAVE TRIED...TO SHOW THAT ONE OF THE BULLETS MUST HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM A SECOND LOCATION,

"THERE IS CLEARLY NO REASON FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION AT THIS TIME. THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE WARREN COMMISSION'S MAIN CONCLUSIN : THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED BY OSWALD AND OSWALD ALONE."

GARY (IND) POST-TRIBUNE--"THE CHALLENGE TO THE CONCLUSIONS MADE BY SEVERAL WRITERS, SOME PROBABLY WITH 'BEST SELLER' POTENTIAL IN MIND AND SOME PROBABLY BECAUSE OF SINCERE DOUBTS ABOUT SHREDS OF UNEXPLORED EVIDENCE, HAVE LEFT TE PUBLIC CONFUSED."

B50

SANTA CRUZ (CALIF.) SENTINEL--"ADMITTEDLY, WE CAN SEE NO OBJECTION TO AN INVESTIGATION OR A REOPENING OF THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION IF SOMETHING CAN BE ADDED WHICH WOULD CLARIFY THE CASE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

"INSTEAD, WE GET THE FEELING THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION WOULD ONLY BECOME A FIELD DAY FOR CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION AND ADD LITTLE MORE THAN ADDITIONAL CONFUSION TO THE COMPLCATED INQUIRY."

BOSTON HERALD--"WE DEEPLY REGRET THE STRAIN THAT A NEW INVESTIGATION WOULD PLACE ON THE KENNEDY FAMILY BUT WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE. A RECENT HARRIS POLL REVEALS THAT 54 PER CENT OF THE PUBLIC DOUBTS THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDINGS. THIS IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE CREDIBILITY GAP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED DISTURBING PROPORTIONS. THIS GAP MUST BE CLOSED AND A NEW INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN."

INDIANAPOLIS STAR--"SENSATION MONGERS AND PSEUDO HISTORIANS HAVE TRIED IN RECENT MONTHS TO PEDDLE THE NOTION THAT SOME SINISTER CONSPIRACY, WHICH 'SOMEONE SEEMS TO BE COVERING UP,' LAY BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION...BUT THEIR CONCLUSIONS ARE NOT CONVINCING...THERE ARE ALWAYS SENSATION MONGERS WHO WILL CAPITALIZE ON THESE ASPECTS AND DRAW FALSE THEORIES FROM THEM WHILE IGNORING THE BULK OF OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE.

"THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE IN THE DALLAS ASSASSINATION INDICATED THAT THE LATE PRESIDENT WAS SLAIN BY A DEDICATED MARXIST WHO HATED THE U.S. AND MANY OF ITS LEADERS..."

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD--"RELUCTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO REOPEN THE INQUIRY INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS UNDERSTANDABLE. IT COULD DEVELOP INTO A HORRENDOUS CIRCUS THAT WOULD GENERATE MUCH MORE HEAT THAN LIGHT...WE THINK THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO READ THE WARREN REPORT FEEL THAT IT DID AS THOROUGH AND CAREFUL A JOB AS WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES."

EB6

RENO (NEV.) EVENING GAZETTE--"...UNLESS SOME STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT, AND IT HAS NOT, THE WARREN COMMISSION VERDICT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS VALID."

EL DORADO (KAN.) TIMES--"A WOOLING AND A WORKING OVER OF THE ASSASSINATION WON'T HELP THE SITUATION. IT WILL ONLY SERVE TO MAKE WHAT WAS A GREAT NATIONAL TRAGEDY MORE TRAGIC."

CAMBRIDGE (MD.) BANNER--"CONGRESS SEEMS LIKE THE PROPER AGENCY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO REOPEN THE CASE."

HAMMOND (IND.) TIMES--"THE RISING CLAMOR OVER THE WARREN COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION BRINGS TO MIND THE ADAGE WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE."

BALTIMORE EVENING SUN--"WHEN MEN OF THE STATURE OF SEN. (RICHARD B.) RUSSELL AND ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR. STATE THEIR OWN DOUBTS AS TO THE NATURE AND SEQUENCE OF THE HAPPENINGS OF NOV. 22, 1963, THEY ECHO THE UNEASY THOUGH VAGUE FEELINGS OF A GROWING MANY ORDINARY CITIZENS."

NAP, (CALIF.) REGISTER--"IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE WARREN COMMISSION DID NOT HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE? OR HAVE THE MORE RECENT CONCLUSIONS BEEN BASED ON FAULTY FINDINGS??"

IN A RECENT DEVELOPMENT, GOV. JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS SAID HE DISAGREED WITH THE "SINGLE BULLET" THEORY ADVANCED BY THE COMMISSION-- THE CONCLUSION THAT ONE BULLET PASSED THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S BODY AND WOUNDED THE GOVERNOR. WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO CONALLY'S VIEWING OF THE FRAMES OF A MOTION PICTURE OF THE ASSASSINATION MADE BY AN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER.

BUT THE HOUSTON (TEX.) CHRONICLE SAID IN AN EDITORIAL:

BUT THE HOUSTON (TEX.) CHRONICLE SAID IN AN EDITORIAL:

"BUT THIS IS NOT NEW, GOV. CONNALLY MADE HIS VIEW KNOWN TO THE COMMISSION MEMBERS, AND THEY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IT ALONG WITH THE MASS OF OTHER EVIDENCE THAT CAME UNDER THEIR SCRUTINY..."

"CONNALLY HIMSELF HAS SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS EXHAUSTIVE, OBJECTIVE AND DETAILED, AND EVEN THOUGH HE DISAGRES ON THE MATTER OF WHICH BULLET STRUCK HIM, HE DOES NOT ARGUE WITH THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION."

THE CHRONICLE CAPTIONED THE EDITORIAL, "NO NEW EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED."

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