

12/9/63

## Assassin's Trail

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 In the National Archives Building in Washington last week, the commission established by President Johnson to "satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as it can be discovered" about President Kennedy's assassination held its first meetings. The commission, which is headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren and includes two Senators, two Representatives and two former high Government officials, dealt mainly with organization and the establishment of procedures in its initial sessions.

Much of the commission's work may consist in sifting and analyzing a report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the assassination and the events surrounding it. The F.B.I. completed the first phase of its inquiry last week. A bizarre new fact said to have been uncovered is that Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of assassinating the President, may also have been the person who fired a shot last spring that just missed Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker who is identified with extreme right-wing views.

Whether the commission will clear up the multitude of questions that have arisen about the events in Dallas is uncertain. For despite a wealth of detail that has come to light about Oswald's background and activities, and about Jack Ruby, the nightclub operator who killed Oswald, vital questions remain unresolved, or only partially answered.

The core of the case against Oswald seems to be that his fingerprints were found on the assassination weapon and at the site from which the shots were fired; it has also been definitely established that the weapon—a surplus Italian World War II rifle—belonged to him.

There has been speculation that more than one person participated in the actual shooting. It arises mainly out of doubts that the bolt-action rifle used in the assassination could have been fired three times in the five and one-half seconds that elapsed between the first and last shots. The F.B.I., however, is reported to have concluded on the basis of ballistic studies that all three bullets—the two that struck President Kennedy and the one that struck Gov. John Connally—came from the same weapon.

There was no immediate word on whether the F.B.I. report threw fresh light on the question of Oswald's motive, if he was the killer. Oswald regarded himself as a Marxist and was pro-Castro. Perhaps more significant is the fact that Oswald was found as a child to have psychotic tendencies. A psychiatric examination when Oswald was 13 found that he was "potentially dangerous" and had a hatred of authority.

Ruby's slaying of Oswald has fueled suspicions that the assassination of the President may have involved a conspiracy. Members of Ruby's family claim he was distraught with grief over the President's death and he will plead temporary insanity. But inevitably it has been asked whether Ruby might not have killed Oswald to prevent his revealing a conspiracy and implicating others.

The evidence disclosed thus far has established no connection between Oswald and Ruby prior to the assassination, nor any clear links between them and third persons or groups in this country or abroad who might have had a motive for the assassination.