

Merry-Go-Round**Another Look at the
Warren Commission****Drew Pearson**

TODAY, WHEN a favorite national sport seems to be that of casting doubt on the findings of the Warren Commission, it might be well to investigate how that commission came into being.

I discussed the matter with President Johnson ten days after President Kennedy's tragic death. Mr. Johnson had been thrust into the White House, with all its responsibilities plus its immediate problems of President Kennedy's funeral and the fixing of guilt for his death.

The latter had been complicated by Ruby's shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, which unleashed a flood of rumors that Lee Oswald had been in conspiracy with the Dallas Police, the underworld, or the pro-fascist right wing in Dallas.

The new President was fully aware of this. He also recalled from history the rumors that followed Lincoln's assassination.

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SO PRESIDENT JOHNSON decided to pick the most unimpeachable, bipartisan board possible to investigate.

He picked two Republicans — Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky and Republican Gerald Ford of Michigan. He balanced them against two Democrats — Senator Richard Russell of Georgia and Republican Hale Boggs of Louisiana. He chose a distinguished elder statesman of the Republican party, John J. McCoy,

plus Allen Dulles, ex-chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But these men were willing to serve only if led by a respected, nonpartisan chairman, and to this end the new President approached Chief Justice Earl Warren.

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ONE DEVELOPMENT in the investigation of the tragedy that occurred in Dallas three years ago today was the testimony of Mrs. Lee Oswald that her husband had tried to kill Richard Nixon. She told the Warren Commission how he had read in the newspaper that Vice President Nixon was in town, had strapped his holster and revolver underneath his coat and announced he was going downtown to kill "the Vice President."

Mrs. Oswald, didn't know what to do, but when her husband went into the bathroom she locked the door and kept him there until his ardor for killing had cooled off.

The incident puzzled the Warren Commission. Checking on the movements of Richard Nixon, they found that he not only was not Vice President at that time, but he was not in Dallas.

On the other hand, Vice President Johnson was in Dallas. Commission members concluded, therefore, that it was Mr. Johnson who had escaped assassination, and that Mrs. Oswald had confused the two men.

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