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Warren Report Dispels Rumors

THE VOLUMINOUS REPORT of the Warren Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy bespeaks reliability, carries conviction and ought to win universal credence at home and abroad.

It probably will not. A hundred years after the event, the assassination of President Lincoln is still the subject of some doubt and suspicious conjecture and already the facts and conclusions of the Warren Commission are being disputed and challenged by unbelievers. Despite the careful and thorough sifting of all such rumors and speculations accorded by the report, it is still being contended that the President's death came through some home-bred conspiracy or sinister international plot. It is doubtless significant that the unbelievers of the extreme right still see Lee Harvey Oswald as a tool of the Communists, and those of the extreme left still insist he was a Fascist instrument.

ABROAD, THE COMMISSION report is generally accepted at face value, though there are isolated cries of "whitewash." But the foreign consensus now is that President Kennedy was the victim of a lone, sick man with a rifle and that the incontrovertible establishment of that fact has demolished fear that the United States had become a Nation torn by hatred and dissension. With surprising repetition, the foreign press asserts that the restoration of faith in American principles and practice is the great achievement of the commission report.

In analyzing the crime itself the report notes what is self-evident, namely, that the protective measures of the Secret Service, the FBI and the Dallas police were inadequate. It makes specific recommendations for tightening such measures for the better protection of Presidents and those in line for the office.

HERE, AGAIN, the ultimate result is subject to doubt. The martyred President himself remarked a few hours before his death that complete security is impossible, that all a man needs to kill a President is a rifle with a telescopic sight and a window in a tall building. In this area of presidential safety, the co-operation of the President is essential. In this regard it is reported that President Johnson, having appointed a committee to advise him on carrying out the commission's recommendations, repeatedly left his closely guarded automobile in Rhode Island yesterday and plunged into the swarming crowds.

This is not to say that the recommendations for tightened safety measures and specific legislation are illusory. They doubtless have practical merit, and should be carefully studied. At this time, too, it may not be amiss to suggest that new legislation to establish the succession to the Presidency when death removes the incumbent is of paramount importance.