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19 NOV. 1966

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MENAGING EDITORS

TELEGRAPH EDITORS

WHO KILLED KENNEDY?

DID LEE HARVEY OSWALD? DID HE DO IT ALONE?

THREE YEARS AFTER A RIFLE BULLET TOOK THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES UNABATED, FUELED BY A STEADY STREAM OF BOOKS, MAGAZINE ARTICLES, RADIO-TELEVISION PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND EVEN A PLAY. ALL CALL INTO QUESTION THE FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH RULED THAT OSWALD, AND OSWALD ALONE, WAS THE KILLER.

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT RELMAN MORIN, TWICE WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE, HAS TAKEN AN OBJECTIVE LOOK AT THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, AND AT THE ARGUMENTS OF ITS CRITICS. HIS REPORT WILL MOVE SHORTLY ON THIS CIRCUIT FOR PUBLICATION ON SUNDAY, NOV. 20.

THE AP, NOV. 16

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ADVANCE FOR AMS OF SUNDAY, NOV. 20

ASSASSINATION CONTROVERSY (1,300)

BY RELMAN MORIN

AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

(ADVANCE) NEW YORK, NOV. 19 (AP)-NEARLY THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS, NOV. 22, 1963.

A SPECIAL COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, AFTER MONTHS OF INVESTIGATION INVOLVING HUNDREDS OF WITNESSES AND A TOWERING MASS OF SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE, NAMED LEE HARVEY OSWALD AS THE ASSASSIN. THE COMMISSION SAID OSWALD ACTED ALONE, WITHOUT ACCOMPLICES.

SO FAR AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, THIS CLOSED THE CASE.

YET TODAY, BOOKS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES CHALLENGING THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ROLL OFF THE PRESSES IN A STEADY STREAM.

PANELS, SOME INCLUDING LAWYERS WHO ASSISTED THE WARREN COMMISSION, DEBATE THE MULTIFARIOUS DETAILS OF THE ASSASSINATION ON TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMS.

A PLAY, ENTITLED "DALLAS NOVEMBER 22 1963" OPENED RECENTLY IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

RAMPARTS MAGAZINE REPORTED THAT "HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS, NAGGED BY DOUBTS ABOUT THE COMPLETENESS OF THE INVESTIGATION," HAVE BOUGHT THE 26 VOLUMES OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT AND THAT, FOR THEM, STUDY-

ING THE ASSASSINATION HAS BECOME AN "ALL-CONSUMING AVOCATION."

A REBUTTAL TO THE CRITICS OF THE COMMISSION WAS PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN SATURDAY REVIEW, WRITTEN BY JUDGE ARNOLD L. FEIN OF THE CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK. DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS BOOKS, JUDGE FEIN WROTE:

"EACH IMPLIES OR STATES THAT THE COMMISSION ASSUMED AT THE OUTSET THAT OSWALD ALONE WAS GUILTY AND THEN SET OUT TO PROVE IT. PERHAPS THIS IS SO, BUT THESE GENTLEMEN HAVE NOT MADE THE CASE. IT IS MORE EASILY DEMONSTRABLE THAT IT IS THEY WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO PROVE THEIR OWN PREDISPOSITIONS."

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SO THE PRO AND CON CONTINUES, IN EUROPE AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE THE ASSASSINATION AS ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERY STORIES OF ALL TIME.

GENERALLY, THE DEBATE PIVOTS ON THESE POINTS:

WAS OSWALD IN FACT THE ASSASSIN?

THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT SAID, "THE SHOTS WHICH KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND WOUNDED GOVERNOR (JOHN) CONNALLY (OF TEXAS) WERE FIRED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD. ON THE BASIS OF THE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION, IT CONCLUDES THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE."

ATTORNEY MARK LANE, WHO WAS ASKED BY OSWALD'S MOTHER TO REPRESENT HER SON'S INTERESTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION, AND WHO HAS WRITTEN A BOOK CRITICAL OF THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, SAID ON A TV PANEL DISCUSSION RECENTLY, "I SAY HAD OSWALD FACED TRIAL, HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, AND I THINK ONE OF THE COMMISSION LAWYERS, ALFREDDA SCOBEY, HAS SAID THAT IN LAW REVIEW ARTCIEL ..."

(ALFREDDA SCOBEY IS LISTED IN THE REPORT AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION'S STAFF.)

WHAT WAS OSWALD'S MOTIVE?

THIS PROBABLY CAN NEVER BE ASCERTAINED. HE DENIED THAT HE SHOT THE PRESIDENT AND EVEN THAT HE OWNED A RIFLE. THE WARREN REPORT QUOTES HIM AS SAYING, WHEN FIRST QUESTIONED BY A SECRET SERVICE OFFICER, "I HAVE MY OWN VIEWS ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL POLICY. I HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPRESS MY VIEWS BUT BECAUSE OF THE CHARGES I DO NOT THINK I SHOULD COMMENT FURTHER."

THAT WAS ON NOV. 23. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, OSWALD WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY JACK RUBY, OPERATOR OF A DALLAS NIGHTCLUB.

WAS THERE A CONSPIRACY IN WHICH OSWALD HAD ACCOMPLICES?

WESLEY J. LIEBLER, A WARREN COMMISSION LAWYER AND NOW PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES, SAID IN A RECENT TV PANEL DISCUSSION:

"AS FAR AS DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY...A LOT OF TIME, A LOT OF EFFORT AND A LOT OF INVESTIGATION WAS PUT INTO THIS QUESTION, AND I THINK THE ONLY THING YOU CAN CONCLUDE IS IF THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANTIAL KIND OF CONSPIRACY HERE, SOME KIND OF INDICATION WOULD HAVE COME OUT AT SOME PLACE ALONG THE LINE."

THIS QUESTION LEADS TO ANOTHER.

DID ALL THE SHOTS COME FROM THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING WHERE OSWALD WAS SEEN MINUTES AFTER THE SHOOTING?

LANE HAS ASSERTED THAT "ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF THOSE IN THE DEALEY PLAZA AREA" SAID THE SHOTS CAME FROM BEHIND A WOODEN FENCE WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S CAR WAS ABOUT TO PASS. HE SAID SEVEN MEN SAID THEY SAW "A PUFF, OR PUFFS, OF WHITE SMOKE."

IF SHOTS ALSO WERE FIRED FROM THE AREA OF THE FENCE, THEN OBVIOUSLY, OSWALD HAD ONE OR MORE ACCOMPLICES AND THEY CAUGHT THE PRESIDENT'S CAR IN A CROSS-FIRE, BULLETS STRIKING IT FROM THE RIGHT-FRONT AND THE RIGHT-REAR.

THE WARREN REPORT SAID ON THIS POINT, "IN CONTRAST TO THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES WHO HEARD AND OBSERVED SHOTS FIRE FROM THE DEPOSITORY, THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION HAS DISCLOSED NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM ANYWHERE ELSE."

DID THE WOUND IN THE PRESIDENT'S THROAT INDICATE THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH IT CAME?

AGAIN, IF ALL THE BULLETS CAME FROM THE BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING, ONE MUST HAVE STRUCK KENNEDY IN THE BACK AND EXITED THROUGH HIS THROAT. CRITICS HAVE ASSERTED THAT AN EXIT-WOUND WOULD BE LARGER AND MORE RAGGED THAN THE WOUND AT THE POINT OF ENTRY. ON THE CONTRARY, IF IT WAS AN ENTRANCE-WOUND, IT COULD NOT HAVE COME FROM THE DEPOSITORY.

THE DOCTORS AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL IN DALLAS, WORKING FEVERISHLY TO SAVE KENNEDY'S LIFE, PERFORMED A TRACHEOTOMY, ENLARGING THE WOUND IN HIS THROAT. DR. MALCOLM O. PERRY, WHO PERFORMED THE TRACHEOTOMY IS QUOTED IN THE WARREN REPORT AS TESTIFYING:

"A FULL JACKETED BULLET WITHOUT DEFORMATION PASSING THROUGH THE SKIN WOULD LEAVE A SIMILAR WOUND FOR AN EXIT AND ENTRANCE WOUND AND WITH THE FACTS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE AVAILABLE AND WITH THESE ASSUMPTIONS, I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS AN EXIT WOUND."

WHY DID THE WARREN COMMISSION DECIDE NOT TO EXAMINE THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND X-RAYS TAKEN BEFORE AND DURING THE AUTOPSY?

IT WAS PERFORMED BY TWO NAVY PATHOLOGISTS, CMDR. JAMES J. HUMES AND CMDR. J. THORNTON BOSWELL. HUMES SAID COMMISSION MEMBERS HAD ASKED WHETHER THE X-RAYS AND PICTURES WERE NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH HIS AND BOSWELL'S TESTIMONY. "WE FELT THEY WERE NOT."

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THE RECORD SHOWS THIS EXCHANGE:

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: "IF WE HAD THE PICTURES HERE AND YOU COULD LOOK THEM OVER AGAIN AND RESTATE YOUR OPINION, WOULD IT CAUSE YOU TO CHANGE ANY OF THE TESTIMONY YOU HAVE GIVEN HERE?"

HUMES: "TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, IT WOULD NOT."

THE KENNEDY FAMILY ON NOV. 2 TURNED OVER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES THE 14 X-RAYS, 25 BLACK-AND-WHITE NEGATIVES AND 26 COLOR TRANSPARENCIES TAKEN OF THE AUTOPSY. A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THEY CAME INTO THE POSSESSION OF THE LATE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY.

UNDER CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE FAMILY, NON-OFFICIAL ACCESS TO THEM WILL NOT BE GRANTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE FAMILY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS, MAY SEE THE PICTURES AT ANY TIME.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE PICTURES IN HIS NOV. 4 NEWS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAID, "I THINK THAT ANY AMERICAN CAN

UNDERSTAND THE REASONS WHY WE WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE THE GARMENTS AND THE RECORDS AND EVERYTHING PARADED OUT IN EVERY SEWING CIRCLE IN THE COUNTRY TO BE EXPLOITED AND USED WITHOUT SERVING ANY GOOD OR OFFICIAL PURPOSE."

WHAT ABOUT THE CAPABILITY OF THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO RIFLE WHICH THE COMMISSION FOUND TO BE THE DEATH WEAPON?

IT HAD BEEN CALLED "CRUDELY MADE, POORLY DESIGNED, DANGEROUS AND INACCURATE." THE WARREN REPORT SAID, "THE VARIOUS TESTS SHOWED THAT THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO WAS AN ACCURATE RIFLE AND THAT THE USE OF A FOUR-POWER SCOPE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL AID TO RAPID AND ACCURATE FIRING."

DID OSWALD HAVE TIME TO GET OFF THREE SHOTS AT THE MOVING MOTORCADE?

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ADVANCE FOR AMS OF SUNDAY NOV. 20

ADVANCE NEW YORK--FIRST ADD ASSASSINATION CONTROVERSY (A159 X X X MOTORCADE?

REFERRING TO TESTS OF THE RIFLE, SET UP TO SIMULATE CONDITIONS WHICH THE COMMISSION SAID OSWALD WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED, THE REPORT SAID, "ALL THREE OF THE FIRERS IN THESE TESTS WERE ABLE TO FIRE THE ROUNDS WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE ASSASSIN UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS."

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE CRITICS GO ON AND ON. BOOKS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS OF THEM HAVE PROVED PROFITABLE FOR SOME CRITICS.

IN A SENSE, THEY ALL RELATE TO A CENTRAL QUESTION: DID THE WARREN COMMISSION DO A THOROUGH AND ADEQUATE JOB?

JOHNSON SET FORTH HIS OPINION IN THE NOV. 4 NEWS CONFERENCE.

HE SAID:

"...AND I THINK THEY MADE A VERY THOROUGH STUDY. I KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY CAUSE ANY REASONABLE PERSON TO HAVE A DOUBT ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION, BUT IF THERE IS ANY EVIDENCE THAT'S BROUGHT FORTH, I'M SURE THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE ACTION THAT MAY BE JUSTIFIED."

END ADVANCE FOR AMS OF SUNDAY, NOV. 20; MOVED NOV. 16.

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