

Verdict Tomorrow

Warren Report's Goal--An End To All Doubts

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Stepping into a 10-month vacuum of doubt, intrigue and confusion, the Warren commission will lay before the world tomorrow its verdict on the assassination of President Kennedy.

As far as possible, the seven-member panel headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren will attempt

in a report—of 296,000 words in 864 pages—to tell all that is known about Mr. Kennedy's murder in Dallas last November 22.

It is the hope of the commission that the report, based upon investigations, testimony and deliberations that have been under way since shortly after the slaying, will assuage fears and suspicions which have circled the globe.

RIDDLES

Yet it is impossible for the commission to solve all the riddles emerging from the slaying of Mr. Kennedy, the murder of his accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, and the killing of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit.

It is unlikely also that the Warren commission report will quiet sensationalists who are bent upon exploiting the Kennedy assassination for their own ideological or monetary purposes.

When President Johnson appointed the commission seven days after Mr. Kennedy's death, he directed that it report to him, to the American people and to the world after it had satisfied itself "that the truth is known as far as it can be discovered."

QUESTIONS

In attempting to ascertain this truth, the Warren Commission has focused its atten-

tion on three major questions:

1—Did Oswald kill Mr. Kennedy?

2—Did he do it alone or in conspiracy with others?

3—Was there any connection between Oswald and his own murderer, Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby?

Former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the late President's brother, appeared to answer these basic questions for the Warren Commission when he met with a group of students and civic leaders in Krakow, Poland, on June 29.

Kennedy, who worked closely with the Commission throughout its inquiry, said of Oswald: "There is no question that he did it on his own and by himself."

SINGLE ACT

The assassination, said Kennedy, was "a single act of one person (Oswald) protesting against society."

Yet rumors persist that the President's murder was part of a plot.

Joachim Joesten, a German writer, theorizes in his book, "Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?" that the murder was a conspiracy hatched by right-wing extremists with complicity of Army officers and members of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He contends that Oswald had no part in the plot.

In "Who Killed Kennedy?", a book published in London, Thomas G. Buchanan, an American, spotlights a mysterious Mr. X—an unidentified Texas oil millionaire—as the architect of the crime. He claims Oswald was an accomplice, but not the murderer of Mr. Kennedy.

Former New York assemblyman Mark Lane, who has worked with Oswald's mother, Marguerite Oswald, has projected no theory, but has contended in lectures and interviews that Oswald was not guilty.

BIRCHER

Revilo P. Oliver, a member of the John Birch Society and a professor at the University of Illinois, contends that Mr. Kennedy's murder was a Communist conspiracy, the result of the President's refusal to meet a definite timetable in yielding the United States to Red control.

Oliver already has asserted that the Warren Commission report will be a "white-wash."

There even have been suggestions that the President planned his own murder because he was dying of an incurable disease and sought martyrdom.

These theories may sound fantastic. But they are traceable largely to the fact that so many conflicting statements, so many mysterious developments, so many unfounded rumors have emerged from the Dallas tragedy.

If these stories are to be demolished, the Warren Commission has many questions to answer. Among them are these:

1—Why was the Texas School Book Depository, from which Oswald allegedly fired the fatal shots, not sealed off by the police or Secret Service?

2—Why was Oswald, known to the FBI as a Communist sympathizer and one-time defector, not kept under surveillance during the President's trip?

3—Why did Mr. Kennedy, against his own premonition, go to Dallas where right-wing fanatics had assaulted United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson a week earlier and Lyndon Johnson in 1960?

4—What was behind Oswald's strange trip to Mexico shortly before the assassination?

5—Why were Dallas medical authorities and those at the Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital in conflict over wounds suffered by Mr. Kennedy?

6—Did Oswald slay policeman Tippit shortly after killing the President — and if so, why?

7—Why did Tippit halt Oswald on a Dallas street, and did they know each other?

8—Did Dallas police actually sound a premature alert in the area of the Book Depository five minutes before Mr. Kennedy was killed?

9—Did Tippit meet in Ruby's nightclub before the assassination with Bernard Weissman, who placed a violently anti-Kennedy advertisement in the Dallas Morning News on the day of Mr. Kennedy's death?

10—Was Oswald seen in Ruby's nightclub before the killing?

11—Is there conflict between official reports that Oswald bought the murder rifle, fitted with a telescopic sight, from a Chicago mail order firm and an Irving, Tex., gunsmith's claim that he placed a sight on a rifle for a man named Oswald one month before the murder?

12—Is it true—as Joesten, the German writer, claims—that Oswald could not have known the exact route of the presidential motorcade and, therefore, could not have been prepared to shoot Mr. Kennedy from the Book Depository?

13—Does Oswald appear in a photograph taken at the entrance to the Book Depository seconds after Mr. Kennedy presumably was shot from the sixth floor of that building?

14—Was Oswald a Communist agent?

15—Was he—as his mother contends—an agent for either the CIA or the FBI?

16—Were police so slow in getting into the Book Depository that before they encountered Oswald he had time to hide the rifle and buy a soft drink on the fourth floor?

17—Why was Oswald permitted to leave the building?

18—Could Mr. Kennedy have been shot from the overpass in front of his car rather than from the Book Depository?

19—What of the trajectory of the bullets—did a bullet enter Mr. Kennedy's throat from the front rather than

the back as some have contended?

20—Do ballistics tests prove that the Italian-made Carcano, allegedly owned by Oswald, actually was the murder weapon?

21—Why did Dallas police chief Jesse Curry insist upon moving Oswald from police headquarters to the county jail at a publicly announced time on a Sunday morning?

22—How did Ruby get into the police headquarters basement where he killed Oswald?

23—Did Oswald show recognition of Ruby seconds before he was shot?

24—How does Oswald's stay in Russia pertain to the assassination—if at all?

25—Was the Secret Service lax in its protection of the President?

26—Why did the Dallas police subject Oswald to almost endless interrogation and a televised press conference?

27—Is it true—as Joesten states—that violence has stalked witnesses in the Oswald case?

28—Is it true—as Buchanan suggests—that the police broadcast an alert for Oswald just six minutes after Kennedy was shot?

29—Finally — if Oswald killed Kennedy, what was his motive?