

# Warren Verdict: Oswald Alone

## Commission Reveals All Information--- Conspiracy Ruled Out

By Anthony Lewis  
New York Times

Washington

The assassination of President Kennedy was the work of one unhappy man, Lee Harvey Oswald. There was no conspiracy, foreign or domestic.

That was the central finding in the Warren Commission report, made public yesterday.

Chief Justice Earl Warren and the six other members of the President's commission on the assassination were unanimous on this and all questions.

### RUBY

The commission found that Jack Ruby acted on his own in killing Oswald. It rejected all theories that the two men were in some way connected. It said that neither rightists nor Communists bore the responsibility for the murder of the President in Dallas last November 22.

Why did Oswald do it? To this most important and most mysterious question the commission had no certain answers. It suggested that Oswald had no rational purpose, no motive adequate if "judged by the standards of reasonable men."

Rather, the commission saw Oswald's terrible act as the product of his entire life — a life "characterized by isolation, frustration and failure."

### RESENTMENT

"Oswald was profoundly alienated from the world in which he lived," the report said. "He had very few, if any, close relationships with other people and he appeared to have great difficulty in finding a meaningful place in the world."

"He was never satisfied with anything.

"When he was in the United States, he resented the capitalist system . . . when he was in the Soviet Union, he apparently resented the Communist party members, who were accorded special privileges and who he thought were betraying Communism, and he spoke well of the United States."

The commission found that Oswald had shot at former Major General Edwin A. Walker in Dallas on April 10, 1963, narrowly missing him. It cited this as evidence of his capacity for violence.

It listed as factors that might have led Oswald to the assassination "his deep-rooted resentment of all authority which was expressed in a hostility toward every society in which he lived," his "urge to try to find a place in history" and his "avowed commitment to Marxism and Communism, as he understood the terms."

### FINDINGS

The report's findings on what happened in Dallas contained few surprises. The essential points had leaked out one way or another during the ten months since President Johnson appointed the Warren commission November 29, 1963.



A. P. Wirephoto

LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
"An unhappy man, acting alone"

But the commission analyzed every issue in exhaustive, almost archeological detail. Experts traced the path of the bullets. Every critical event was re-enacted. Witnesses here and abroad testified to the most obscure points.

The question now is whether the report will satisfy those, especially abroad, who

have insisted that there must have been a conspiracy, the commission attempted to answer, specifically, every such theory and rumor.

### PROTECTION

The report did have surprises in its appraisal of the protection provided for the President by Federal agencies, and in its recommenda-



tions for improved methods of protection.

It was quite critical of the Secret Service for inadequate preventive measures, and of the FBI for not giving the Secret Service the adverse information it had on Oswald. It called for higher-level government attention to the problem of protecting the President, and possibly for reorganization.

The commission made public all the information it had bearing on the events in Dallas, whether the information agreed with its findings or not.

### ROLE

In a foreword the commission said that it operated not as a judge or jury—because Oswald was not brought to trial—but as a dispassionate fact-finder. This is borne out by the report, which is neutral in tone and makes every effort to be fair in its discussions of Oswald.

Few who loved John Fitzgerald Kennedy, or this country, will be able to read the report without emotion.

As the President's motorcade drove through Dallas on November 22, large crowds cheered. Governor John Connally's wife, who was in the car, said to Mr. Kennedy, "Mr. President, you can't say Dallas doesn't love you." He answered, "That is very obvious."

A moment later the shots were fired.

### MRS. KENNEDY

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, according to the report, "saw the President's skull torn open" by the second bullet that hit him.

A reader of the report is struck again and again by the series of events that had to fall into place to make the assassination possible. Over a period of years, so many men could have done so many things that would have changed history.

On October 31, 1959, Oswald appeared at the United States Embassy in Moscow and stated that he wanted to renounce his U.S. citizenship. While he had a right to do so at once, consular officials did not want to let a young man take so final a step precipitously. They told him to come back.

He never came back. If Oswald had been allowed to expatriate himself at once, he would have found it difficult or impossible to return to the United States when he tired of the USSR.

Similarly, American officials helped Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina, when they wanted to come back to the United States in 1962 because they thought it better for this country to bring a defector back.

The report says "it is only from the vantage of the present that the tragic irony of their conclusion emerges."

The FBI learned in early November 1963, that Oswald — whom it knew was a defector and a proclaimed admirer of Fidel Castro — was in Dallas and worked at the

Texas School Book Depository along the route of the presidential motorcade. No FBI agent interviewed Oswald or reported the fact to the Secret Service when the President's motorcade route was published.

The report clarified what had been considerable confusion about the bullets.

### THREE

The commission found that in all probability three bullets were fired.

The first of the two shots that hit the President lodged in the lower back of the neck and emerged at the lower front. Mr. Kennedy grabbed at his throat and said, "My God, I am hit."

"President Kennedy could have survived the neck injury," the commission found. But between 4.8 and 5.6 seconds later—the time was calculated from an amateur movie film—the fatal bullet hit the back of the President's head.

### HOPELESS

The time was 12:30. When he arrived at the hospital five minutes later, the report said, President Kennedy was alive "from a medical viewpoint"; there was a heart beat. But "his condition was hopeless." He was pronounced dead at 1 p.m.

All of these points were demonstrated by the commission with elaborate re-enactments, expert testimony and experiments on simulated skulls and bodies. The report contains many macabre pages of such detail.

Experts said flatly that the nearly whole bullet and two large fragments recovered could only have been fired by the 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle found in the sixth floor window of the School Book Depository.

In painstaking detail the



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report connected Oswald the target easily at that distance, 177 to 266 feet, with a telescopic sight and the target moving off in a straight line from him.

The commission found that Oswald had the ability to hit

## The Commission

### Washington

President Johnson ordered the creation of "The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy" on November 29, 1963, one week after the Dallas assassination.

Heading the commission was Chief Justice Earl Warren, of the United States Supreme Court, in a role rarely played by the highest judicial official in the land.

The other members of the commission were Senators Richard B. Russell (Dem-Ga.) and John Sherman Cooper (Rep-Ky.); Representatives Hale Boggs (Dem-La.) and Gerald R. Ford (Rep.Mich.); Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency and John J. McCl former



JUSTICE WARREN  
A rare role

United States High Commissioner in Germany.

Associated Press