

Meeting People Was Important

WASHINGTON — (Special) — Why did John F. Kennedy court danger by journeying to Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963? His special assistant, Kenneth O'Donnell, explains in the Warren Commission report:

"The President's views of his responsibilities as President of the United States were that he meet the people, that he go out to their homes and see them, and allow them to see him, and discuss, if possible, the views of the world as he sees it, the problems of the country as he sees it, the prob-

lems of the country as he sees them.

"And he felt that leaving Washington for the President of the United States was almost necessary — not only for the people, but for the President himself, that he expose himself to the actual basic problems that were disturbing the American people.

"It helped him in his job here, he was able to come back here with a fresh view of many things. I think he felt very strongly that the President ought to get out of Washington, and go meet the people on a regular basis."

Look at The Risk By JFK

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — On the morning of the day of his death, John F. Kennedy remarked that it would be easy for anyone to shoot a President.

This was disclosed in the Warren Commission report.

Before departing Fort Worth, Tex., for Dallas, the President, Mrs. Kennedy and Kenneth O'Donnell, White House assistant, talked about the risks of presidential public appearances.

According to O'Donnell, Kennedy commented that "if anybody really wanted to shoot the President of the United States, it was not a very difficult job—all one had to do was get a high building some day with a telescopic rifle, and there was nothing anybody could do to defend against such an attempt."

So the President's car proceeded to Dallas, with the plastic bubble-top off. This did not matter, anyhow, because the top was not bullet resistant.

At the rear of the car were running boards for Secret Service agents, but there were no agents on them because, according to the commission:

"The President had frequently stated that he did not want agents to ride on those steps during a motorcade except when necessary."

The commission comments:

"Evident on this trip were the varied roles which an American President performs—head of state, chief executive, party leader, and, in this instance, prospective candidate for re-election.

"The Dallas motorcade, it was hoped, would evoke a demonstration of the President's personal popularity in a city which he had lost in the 1960 election."