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Provocative Book

On The Warren Commission

By JOHN FRIEDMAN

ON A secluded farm in Western Maryland, a former Government investigator recently wrote a provocative book on the Kennedy assassination.

The book, "Whitewash—the Report on the Warren Report," sharply attacks the conclusions of the Warren commission. Harold Weisberg, the author, says in the book that the commission "had more than evidence of a conspiracy."

In 208 pages, he documents his case that Lee Harvey Oswald "could not have done what he was charged with" and was only a "pigeon."

Mr. Weisberg's book is on the Warren commission and only secondarily on the assassination itself, and all of his evidence comes from the commission's records.

He never interviewed anyone. He never went to Dallas.

His research has thrust him from seclusion into the public eye. He has been on television in New York city and has appeared on many radio programs. His book, released only a few months ago, has sold 8,000 copies so far.

Yet Mr. Weisberg, a soft-spoken, serious man, still spends most of his time on his 14-acre farm in Hyattstown, near Frederick. He lives on the farm with his wife and numerous domestic animals.

Former Newspaper Man

He moved there after World War II. "I was," he says, "one of the few soldiers who wanted to return to peaceful farms who actually did."

Mr. Weisberg is a former newspaper man from Delaware. In the late 1930's he worked as an investigator for a Senate committee and later wrote a series of magazine articles on Nazi cartels in America.

When he first bought his farm, he decided to raise chickens. But neither he nor his wife, Lillian, knew anything about poultry.



On a secluded farm in Western Maryland Mr. Harold Weisberg has written a book, "Whitewash—the Report on the Warren Report," in which he sharply attacks the conclusions of the Warren commission. His evidence comes from the commission's records.

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Gradually they learned, however, winning awards from breeding to barbecuing.

"I had to develop new techniques, because I had a small operation," Mr. Weisberg says. "I always tried new things. For instance, I was the first breeder to give tranquilizers to chickens."

Poultry Ruined

The tranquilizers were necessary after Army helicopters began flying training missions over his farm. The chickens, which are extremely temperamental, were adversely affected.

Mr. Weisberg was finally able to prevent the planes from flying over his farm, but his poultry was ruined. So he decided to return to his first vocation — writing. He was working on a book when President Kennedy was assassinated.

He then decided to write on the assassination; Whitewash was born after the Warren report appeared.

Certain parts of the report intrigued Mr. Weisberg.

For one, the police behavior, he thought, was strange. "It was obvious from the very beginning," he says, "that the police were doing everything not to bring Oswald to trial. They made too many mistakes. And the Dallas police are not Keystone Cops."

Tried To Find Publisher

After poring over the report, he began writing. In 28 days he wrote 110,000 words. The book was finished but a typewriter was worn out.

When Mr. Weisberg tried to find a publisher, no one would touch his book. One publisher, considering the book, told him: "This is the most important thing

I will do in my lifetime," and then refused to publish it.

Because the book was so controversial, Mr. Weisberg was finally forced to publish it himself.

"I am not attacking the establishment," said the 53-year-old author. "I am not looking for heroes or goats in the book. And I am not out to get commission members."

'Had To Be Done'

"I believe that writing this book was something that had to be done . . . it was my duty as a citizen. Everything in the book is carefully documented. This is not the sort of thing that lends itself to private James Bondery. It is the assassination of a President of the United States."

Mr. Weisberg believes that many persons originally accepted the Warren report because "people like things answered and tied up in nice, neat packages." But since his book has been published, he has received favorable mail from all over the country.

Asserting that the commission is wrong in its conclusion, Mr. Weisberg hints at another answer — a "false Oswald."

Congressional Investigation

Both "Whitewash" and other recent books on the Warren commission have mentioned the possibility that a man who resembled Oswald might have been involved in the assassination. The description of a "false Oswald" is mentioned in the report itself, says Mr. Weisberg.

Mr. Weisberg hopes that a congressional investigation will be held on the assassination. He also wants to see many of the still classified records opened for research. "I don't think anything should be secret about an assassination," he said.

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