

## The Warren Commission Report

After the death of John F. Kennedy, his vice president, Lyndon B. Johnson, was appointed president. He immediately set up a commission to "ascertain, evaluate and report upon the facts relating to the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy." The seven man commission was headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren and included Gerald Ford, Allen W. Dulles, John J. McCloy, Richard B. Russell, John S. Cooper and Thomas H. Boggs.

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy was announced by President Johnson on November 29, 1963, one week after the shots rang out in Dallas, and five days after alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was killed while in police custody. A little under 10 months later, the "Warren Commission" delivered this 888-page Report. The Report found that Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy, alone and unaided, and that similarly Oswald's killer Jack Ruby was a "lone nut."

This Report was followed up a couple of months later by the publication of 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits. The Warren Report was widely hailed by the media as an exhaustive study produced by honorable and prestigious men, and was fairly widely accepted by the American public. It was not until a few years later, with the publication of several critical books and magazine pieces, that this acceptance began to turn into widespread disbelief and even ridicule of the Commission's conclusion.

The Warren Commission was published in October, 1964. It reached the following conclusions:

- (1) The shots which killed President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally were fired from the sixth floor window at the southeast corner of the Texas School Book Depository.
- (2) The weight of the evidence indicates that there were three shots fired.
- (3) Although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission to determine just which shot hit Governor Connally, there is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds.
- (4) The shots which killed President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald.
- (5) Oswald killed Dallas Police Patrolman J. D. Tippit approximately 45 minutes after the assassination.
- (6) Within 80 minutes of the assassination and 35 minutes of the Tippit killing Oswald resisted arrest at the theater by attempting to shoot another Dallas police officer.
- (7) The Commission has found no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy.
- (8) In its entire investigation the Commission has found no evidence of conspiracy, subversion, or disloyalty to the U.S. Government by any Federal, State, or local official.
- (9) On the basis of the evidence before the Commission it concludes that, Oswald acted alone.

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1. What is the name of the report?
  2. Why was it given this name?
  3. What was the purpose of the commission?

4. List three conclusions of the commission:

5. Do you agree or disagree with the Commission's final conclusion regarding the JFK assassination? Explain.
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