

NOVEMBER 1964

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THE WARREN REPORT

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Ivor Montagu

LEGEND already relates that when Chief Justice Warren agreed to accept the Chairmanship of the Kennedy Enquiry Commission he wept. He had good reason. Just as others had good reason to press him to undertake it. It is interesting to speculate what would have been the reception of its report had the Commission been headed by any other of its members—for instance Alan Dulles, the Central Intelligence Agency chief whom Kennedy let go after the Bay of Pigs, or McCloy, ex-High Commissioner in Germany, or either of the racist Democratic Senators (from Georgia and Louisiana) or the Goldwaterite Republican. 'But Brutus is an honourable man.' Or so said Marc Anthony when he was commenting upon another murder by conspiracy. In that case, Julius Caesar. In this, the truth itself. As it is, because of Brutus, the conspiracy has got off to a fair start. Not so fair as the reader of the British press, with its unanimous hooflick nowadays in response to any 'moo' of the Washington sacred cow, might imagine however. The headline in the *New York Times* on the day following publication (September 29) reads: 'WARREN FINDINGS SATISFY OFFICIALS IN WEST EUROPE: MUCH OF PUBLIC SCEPTICAL'. Just so.

The main impact of the report is its voluminousness. It is a real bucket of brainwash. 718 often repetitious pages,* a list of 552 witnesses, innumerable staff, a score or so of volumes of testimony promised ultimately—who, after this, would be ungrateful enough to doubt the thoroughness with which the job was done. The old army sweat will easily recognise this technique. It was called when he was hauled before the C.O., 'blinding him with science'. And the job? To divert attention from the source that stood out as most obviously to be accused.

In the January issue of this magazine, before ever the Commission got down to work, the editor outlined the case, the obvious pointers to C.I.A., F.B.I. and Dallas police, that the world had seized upon and that these agencies of national and local government had to answer. Cumulatively it was damning.† Every one of the counts that he enumerated is confirmed in the report. And much more. The sins of omission, the sins of commission, the facts that arouse suspicion.

*Allusions are to the *New York Times*/Bantam edition.

†The reader will find an extract from the Editor's January Notes at the end of this article.