

What Really Happened?

By KATHY MORAN

I'm not sure whether the movie "Executive Action" performs a service or not.

It dredges up all the mysteries surrounding President Kennedy's tragic assassination, but it comes at a time when the country is already shaken by conspiracy and corruption in government.

The film, which is all the more believable in light of Watergate, weaves a fictional conspiracy around all the holes left in the investigation by the Warren Commission.

It attempts to solve such puzzles as how Lee Harvey Oswald could have fired three shots with such accuracy and so rapidly with an antiquated, and supposedly inaccurate, weapon?

EXECUTIVE ACTION

now showing at
Torrace

Rating: PG

The film answers this mystery with a highly-sophisticated plot by right-wing politicians who feared the effect of Kennedy's liberalism.

But what it doesn't answer is what did the conspirators see as more promising or politically acceptable in Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson?

Interwoven in the conspiracy, masterminded by Burt Lancaster, Robert Ryan and Will Geer, are actual film clips of Kennedy during his presidency and with his family, building to the tragic day in Dallas.

The clips make the movie choppy, and a film of the assassination is hard to watch.

But Dalton Trumbo, author of the screenplay (also of "Johnny Got His Gun") has created a believable and probable conspiracy which is worth seeing for those who are still haunted by the mysteries.

And if the brutally-plotted assassination isn't enough to shake the viewer, it's ending statement should:

"In the three-year period which followed the murder of

President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, 18 material witnesses died—six by gunfire, three in motor accidents, two by suicide, one from a cut throat, one from a karate chop to the neck, three from heart attacks and two from natural causes.

"An actuary, engaged by the London Sunday Times concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against these witnesses being dead by February 1967 were 100,000 trillion to one."

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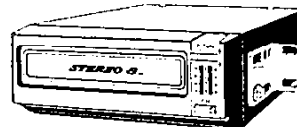
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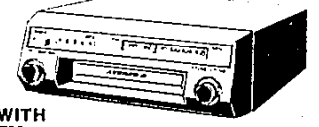


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