

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 9-28-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: WARREN COMMISSION REPORT
RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Coverage of the release of the Warren Commission Report, scheduled for 6:30 p. m., 9-27-64, began at 5:00 p. m. over the Columbia Broadcasting System, heard locally over WTOP - TV, with a review of the conflicting questions surrounding the assassination and interviews of many of the persons who testified before the Commission. At 6:30 p. m., the Report itself was reviewed and the high lights presented: that Lee Harvey Oswald killed President Kennedy, that he appeared to have acted alone, and that he was not apparently involved in any kind of conspiracy with Jack Ruby or other persons.

REFERENCES TO FBI:

The narrator pointed out that neither the Secret Service nor the Dallas Police Department "was warned" by the FBI concerning Oswald. He said that one of the "three great flaws" emphasized in the Report was the "insufficient liaison between the Secret Service and other government agencies" and the "unduly restrictive role played by the FBI."

"Newsnight," a 30-minute regular news program heard at 7:00 p. m. over WTOP - TV, cited the general conclusions of the Report and noted the fact that "government agencies were criticized" for their handling of the President's security safeguards. The commentator said that in this regard, "WTOP contacted the Secret Service and the FBI and was given a 'no comment.'"

DREW PEARSON:

Pearson is heard each week on "Newsnight." He recalled that on 12-1-63, he had broadcast that Secret Service Agents were "out drinking" the night before the assassination. He noted that later Secret Service denied that these Agents were the ones assigned to guard the President. Pearson said he had also reported that "the FBI and the Secret Service had failed to spot Oswald." He claimed that the Commission Report had confirmed the matters raised in his broadcast of December 1st and he wanted to go on record now as predicting that there would be "tough discipline for any FBI Agent who fails to give full information to the Secret Service and for any Secret Service Agent who is found drinking on the job."

OTHER NETWORKS:

American Broadcasting Company and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) also had special broadcasts starting at 6:30 p. m. which reviewed
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the early conflicts regarding the assassination and summarized the conclusions of the Commission. Frank McGee of NBC was careful to point out that the Commission had stated it admittedly was using "hindsight" regarding its criticism of the FBI and that the FBI had followed all procedures which had been set up at the time regarding its liaison with Secret Service.

REMAINING COVERAGE:

All news broadcasts on local radio and television stations were monitored Sunday night and early Monday morning. The Commission Report, of course, was the lead item. For the most part, these broadcasts reviewed the Commission's findings and mention of the FBI was usually limited to the fact that the Commission had criticized the Secret Service and the FBI because of ineffective liaison.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

JPM ✓ *JL*