

Tonahill Cites Communist Link

Attorney Joe Tonahill says he feels the Warren Commission should have given more stress to the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald was a Communist who repudiated America only to return home to slay her President.

"Otherwise," he said, "I feel the commission performed a Herculean task with their investigation and did a commendable job for America, humanity and the world."

He said he thought the murder of President Kennedy in Dallas last November was a Communist murder carried out by a Communist dupe.

RUBY ATTORNEY

The outspoken Jasper attorney along with Melvin Belli of San Francisco formed the backbone of the defensive team for Jack Ruby, the Dallas striptease nightclub boss who slayed Lee Oswald at police headquarters.

Speaking via long distance telephone from his home in Jasper Sunday night to The Times Herald, Mr. Tonahill said he had no argument with the factual or background data compiled by the commission in reference to Ruby.

"There was no connection between Ruby and Oswald and there was no connection between Ruby and the police," he said. "We knew that."

He said he and Belli attempted to get Judge Joe B. Brown to include in his charge to the jury deliberating Ruby's fate that Dallas police had weak security the morning Oswald was gunned down as ~~officers~~ were ~~preparing to~~

transfer him from City Jail to County Jail.

"But the judge would not do it," he said.

He said he and other members of the Ruby defense team tried to introduce into evidence photographs of the now historic picture of Oswald clinching his hands in a Communist salute only hours after he had been apprehended for the killing of President Kennedy and Police Officer J. D. Tippit.

He said Judge Brown turned down that request also.

"Oswald was asking for aid from Russia when he gave that salute for the world to see," Mr. Tonahill said.

The attorney who gained worldwide fame as a member of the Ruby defense team said the commission's report should settle doubts still lingering in the minds of many about the assassination of the President and the subsequent slaying of Oswald.