

CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Dallas Men Placed Ad

WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — A black-bordered advertisement highly critical of the late President Kennedy and published on the day of the Nov. 22 assassination was dreamed up by men who planned a nationwide right-wing political organization, the Warren Commission reported.

The ad, which appeared in the Dallas Morning News, bore the signature of "The American Fact-Finding Committee—an unaffiliated and non-partisan group of citizens who wish truth" and the name of Bernard Weissman as chairman.

In its report on the assassination, the commission said the ad was the product of work by Weissman, William B. Burley III, and Larrie H. Schmidt, who enlisted the aid of Dallas oilman Joseph P. Grinnan, Dallas area co-ordinator for the John Birch Society.

RAISED MONEY

Grinnan, the commission said, raised the money to sponsor the ad from Edgar R. Crissey, Nelson Bunker Hunt and H. R. Bright, some of whom in turn collected contributions from others.

Grinnan told the Times Herald Sunday night he would possibly discuss the matter with newsmen later in the week.

Crissey declined comment, saying he'd like to study the report for two or three days before making any statements.

Bright said he had no comment on the report other than to say "I loaned somebody some money but I told them (the Warren Commission) about that."

Weissman, Burley, Hunt and Schmidt were unavailable for

comment.

The others were not named in the commission report, which concluded that neither the ad nor its sponsors played any role in the assassination.

MEETING IN MUNICH

In its investigation, the commission found the genesis of the ad in a meeting in Munich, Germany, in 1962 when Weissman, Burley and Schmidt were serving together in the U.S. Army.

"During that time they had with others devised plans to develop two conservative organizations, one political and the other business," the commission reported. "The political entity was to be named Conservatism-USA, for CUSA, and the business entity was to be named American Business, or AMBUS."

The commission report quoted from Weissmann's testimony.

"(They) had planned while in Munich that in order to accomplish our goals, to try to do it from scratch would be almost impossible because it would be years before we could even get the funds to develop a powerful organization.

"So we had planned to infiltrate various right-wing organizations and by our own efforts become involved in the hierarchy of these various organizations and eventually get ourselves elected or appointed to various higher offices in these organizations, and by doing this bring in some of our own people, and eventually take over the leadership of these organizations, and at that time having our people in these various organizations we would then, you might

say, call a conference and have them unite, and while no one knew of the existence of CUSA aside from us, we would then bring them all together, unite them, and arranged to have it called CUSA."

SETTLED IN DALLAS

Schmidt, the commission said, was the first to leave the service and settled in Dallas in October, 1962. He became an insurance salesman "and quickly engaged in numerous political organizations in pursuit of the objectives devised in Munich."

Weissman and Burley, the commission reported, did not immediately go to Dallas despite Schmidt's urgings. The commission quoted a letter Schmidt wrote Weissman on Oct. 1, 1963 which said:

"Adlai Stevenson is scheduled here on the 24th on UN Day. Kennedy is scheduled in Dallas on Nov. 22nd. There are to be protests. All the big things are happening now—if we don't get in right now we may as well forget it."

Schmidt telephoned Weissman

WELCOME MR. KENNEDY TO DALLAS...

- ... A CITY is opposed to a second United States embassy that is often just a shell for the same Communist influence to public affairs.
- ... A CITY has a serious "New Deal" set of basic Federal functions, but through numerous agencies and bureaus practices.
- ... A CITY has not wanted to give and grant death threats to you and your administration to point to the administration of the President.
- ... A CITY has wanted our friends and allies in 1960 and will do so again to the maximum extent possible.

MR. KENNEDY, despite contentions on the part of your administration, the State Department, the Mayor of Dallas, the Dallas City Council, and members of your party, we have nothing and America-loving citizens of Dallas still have, through a Constitution largely ignored by you, the right to address our grievances, to question you, to disagree with you, and to criticize you.

In asserting this constitutional right, we wish to ask you publicly the following questions—indeed, questions of paramount importance and interest to all free people everywhere—would you will answer... in public, without tergiversity. These questions are:

- WHY** is Life America being either anti-American or Communist or both, despite increased U.S. foreign aid State Department policy, and your own repeated promises?
- WHY** do you say you have built a "wall of freedom" around Cuba when there is no freedom in Cuba today? Because of your policy, thousands of Cubans have been imprisoned, are starving and being persecuted—with thousands of Cubans are being in slavery.
- WHY** have you approved the sale of wheat and corn to our enemies when you know the Communist American "jet" in "South Vietnam" put in over 400 Communist soldiers are daily invading and are 150,000 men?
- WHY** did you feel, talk and act like the Moscow's Stalin Horse — but a short time after the team money, Division, embraced the Yugoslav dictator as a great hero and leader of Communism?
- WHY** have you urged greater aid, credits, recognition, and understanding for Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, and other Communist regimes, while turning your back on the lives of Hungarians, East Germans, Cubans and other anti-Communist foreign fighters?
- WHY** did Cuba take the U.S. out of its country after we poured nearly 400 million Dollars of aid into its other "left" government?
- WHY** has Gus Hall, head of the U.S. Communist Party, praised almost every one of your policies and announced that the party will endorse and support your reelection in 1962?
- WHY** have you banned the showing of U.S. military bases of the "Operation Abolition" made by the House Committee on Un-American Activities opposing Communism in America?
- WHY** have you ordered or permitted your brother Bobby, the Attorney General, to go soft on Communism, false travel, and what effects in America, while permitting him to persecute loyal Americans who criticize your administration, and your brotherhood?
- WHY** are you in favor of the U.S. continuing to give economic aid to Argentina, in spite of the fact that Argentina has still owed almost 400 million Dollars of American private property?
- WHY** has the Foreign Policy of the United States deteriorated to the point that the CIA is engaging cover and has long found Anti-Communist Allies of the U.S. blindly exterminated?
- WHY** have you scrapped the Monroe Doctrine in favor of the "Spirit of Moscow"?

MR. KENNEDY, in citizens of these United States of America, we DEMAND answers to these questions, and we want them NOW.

THE AMERICAN FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE
"An unaffiliated and non-partisan group of citizens who wish truth"

BERNARD WEISSMAN
Chairman
P.O. Box 1792 — Dallas 75, Texas

Advertisement critical of President which appeared in Dallas Morning News Nov. 22

the day of the Stevenson demonstration and Weissman gave sworn testimony about the conversation.

'HURRY DOWN HERE'

And he said, 'If we are going to take advantage of the situation . . . you better hurry down here and take advantage of the publicity, and at least become known among these various right-wingers, because this is the chance we have been looking for to infiltrate some of these organizations and become known,' in other words, go along with the philosophy we had developed in Munich."

Five days later, the commission reported, Schmidt wrote to Weissman and Burley that as "the only organizer of the demonstration (against Stevenson) to have publicly identified himself," he had "become overnight a fearless spokesman and leader of the right wing in Dallas." Weissman and Burley arrived in Dallas on Nov. 4, 1963, obtained employment as carpet salesmen, and at Schmidt's urging joined the John Birch Society.

MET GRINMAN

Through Schmidt, the commission said, the others met Grinnan, whom the commission identified as "the fourth person involved in placing the Nov. 22 advertisement."

Weissman testified that they began to plan their activities within a week or 10 days after Nov. 4 and eventually decided upon the advertisement printed in the Dallas News.

In his testimony, Weissman explained why they took that course.

"After the Stevenson incident, it was felt that a demonstration would be entirely out of order, because we didn't want anything to happen in the way of physical violence to President Kennedy when he came to Dallas."

WORKED ON TEXT

The commission's report continued:

"Weissman, Schmidt and Grinnan worked on the text for the advertisement. A pamphlet containing 50 questions critical of American policy was employed for this purpose and was the source of the militant questions contained in the ad attacking President Kennedy's administration.

Grinnan undertook to raise the \$1,465 needed to pay for the ad. He employed a typed draft of the advertisement to support his funds solicitation. Grinnan raised the needed money from three wealthy Dallas businessmen: Edgar R. Crissey, Nelson Bunker Hunt and H. R. Bright, some of whom in turn collected contributions from others.

"At least one of the contributors would not make a contribution unless a question he suggested was inserted."

The commission said "a fictitious sponsoring organization was invented out of whole cloth" and added:

"Weissman's own name was used on the ad in part to counter charges of anti-semitism which had been leveled against conservative groups in Dallas."

"Weissman conceived the idea of using a black border and testified he intended it to serve the function of stimulating reader attention," the commission said.

GIVEN TO ATTORNEYS

"Before accepting the advertisement, the Dallas Morning News apparently submitted it to its attorneys for their opinion as to whether its publication might subject them to liability."

The commission said Weissman testified that initial response to the ad, those postmarked before Kennedy's assassination, was favorable.

"Those of later postmark were violently unfavorable, nasty and threatening and, according to a report from Schmidt, those postmarked some weeks later were again of favorable tone," the commission report said.

The commission found that none of the four promoters of the ad were found to have any connection with either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby "or was linked to a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy."

Later allegations by New York attorney Mark Lane that Weissman had met with Ruby and slain Patrolman J. D. Tippit in Ruby's Carousel Club prior to the assassination proved untrue, the commission said.