

'WANTED FOR TREASON'

Dallas Salesman Wrote Handbills

WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Robert A. Surrey, a 38-year-old Dallas printing salesman, was identified by the Warren Commission as the author of the "Wanted for Treason" handbills circulated before the Nov. 22 visit of the late President Kennedy.

The commission, in its report on the assassination, also identified Surrey as president of the American Eagle Publishing Co., in partnership with former Gen. Edwin A. Walker.

In Dallas, Gen. Walker said his partnership had nothing to do with the handbills.

"That operation was not under American Eagle," the former Army officer said.

Regarding other mentions of himself in the commission report, Gen. Walker said he would have to "wait and see the report."

Surrey, contacted in Dallas, said, "I defy anyone to take the testimony offered and prove that I had nothing to do with the

He said he took the Fifth Amendment when questioned by the commission on the handbills in Washington.

"It had nothing to do with the assassination and it was none of

their business," he said.

Declining to answer the direct question on whether or not he was the author of the handbill's message, he did acknowledge that "I had had something to do with it."

"To what extent, of course, I'm not saying," he said.

Surrey, who said he dropped his affiliation with the American Eagle Publishing Co. in July, was emphatic, however, in stating that Gen. Walker had nothing to do with the handbills.

"I know this for sure," he had.

Actual printing of the handbills was done by another salesman, Robert G. Klaus, according to the report.

The handbills bore front and profile views of President Kennedy accompanied by the legend, "Wanted for Treason." They were circulated in Dallas one and two days before the President arrived on his fateful trip.

Identity was established by federal investigators only after persistent checking.

"Efforts to locate the author and the lithography printer of the handbill at first met with evasive

responses and refusals to furnish information," the report said.

It also noted that Klaus had first denied knowing the name of the customer—"whom he incorrectly described"—but disclosed Surrey's identity before being called to give sworn testimony.

The commission said Surrey, employed by the Johnston Printing Co., prepared the text for the handbill "and apparently used Johnston Printing Co. facilities to set the type and prepare a proof."

'ON THE SIDE'

He then induced Klaus, who is employed by Lettercraft Printing Co., to print the handbills "on the side."

Klaus told the commission that Surrey contacted him about the job two or two and a half weeks prior to Nov. 22.

"During the night, he (Klaus) and his wife surreptitiously printed approximately 5,000 on Lettercraft Printing Co. offset printing equipment without the knowledge of his employers," the commission report said.

The report added that it found no evidence of any connection between those responsible for the handbill and Lee Harvey Oswald or the assassination of Kennedy.

Surrey's American Eagle Publishing Co., the commission said, lists its office and address as the post office box of Johnston Printing Co.

"Its assets consist of cash and various printed materials composed chiefly of Gen. Walker's political and promotional literature, all of which is stored at Gen. Walker's headquarters," the commission said.