

Statements Hurt Man, Study Says

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — Dallas police officials injured an "innocent citizen" when they made statements about a Navy veteran after the assassination of President Kennedy, the Warren Commission said Sunday.

The commission said it referred to statements which "formed the basis" for television reports about Joe R. Molina, who was credit manager for the Texas School Book Depository at the time of the assassination.

While pointing out that statements by Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and Dallas police would have made it extremely difficult to find an impartial jury to try Lee Harvey Oswald, the commission commented:

"The immediate disclosure of information by the police created a further risk of injuring innocent citizens by unfavorable publicity. Such was the unfortunate experience of Joe R. Molina, a Dallas-born Navy veteran who had been employed by the Texas School Book Depository since 1947 . . ."

"Apparently because of Molina's employment at the depository and his membership in a

veterans organization, the American G. I. Forum, which the Dallas police considered possibly subversive, Dallas police searched Molina's home with his permission, at about 1:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 23.

"During the day Molina was intermittently interrogated at police headquarters for 6 or 7 hours, chiefly about his membership in the American G. I. Forum and also about Oswald. He was never arrested, charged, or held in custody."

Nevertheless, the commission said, police made statements which resulted in television reports about Molina.

The commission said: "These reports spoke of a 'second suspect being picked up,' insinuated that Dallas police had reason to suspect another person who worked in the depository, stated that the suspect had been arrested and his home searched, and mentioned that Molina may have been identified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a possible subversive."

Actually, the commission said, there was no evidence to link Molina with Oswald except as a fellow employe of the depository and the FBI reported it had never given Dallas police any information concerning alleged subversive activities by Molina.

The commission said Molina lost his job in December and felt that his dismissal resulted from the publicity, but depository officials said he was no longer needed because of automation.

★ OSWALD ONCE PUT IN BID TO COLLEGE

WASHINGTON (AP)—Once, in the spring of 1959, Lee Harvey Oswald decided he wanted to go to college. He was still in the Marine Corps.

He applied to the Albert Schweitzer College in Churwalden, Switzerland, sending a \$25 application fee, asking admission in the spring of 1960. His application, released Sunday by the Warren Commission report, gave these reasons:

"In order to acquire a fuller understanding of that subject which interests me most philosophy, to meet with Europeans who can broaden my scope of understanding. To receive formal education by instructors of high standing and character. To broaden my knowledge of German and to live in a healthy climate and good moral atmosphere."

The application was full of grammatical and spelling errors. The Swiss school is small, specializes in religion, ethics, science and literature. He never got there, defecting to Russia while in Europe, the report said.