

# Probe Discloses Trio's Plan To Unite Right-Wing Forces

Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — A plan by three former servicemen to infiltrate, take over and unite leading right-wing organizations was disclosed Sunday by the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination.

The disclosure resulted from the commission's investigation of an ad which appeared in The Dallas News on the morning of Nov. 22, entitled "Welcome, Mr. Kennedy" and which addressed several critical questions to the President.

The commission identified Bernard W. Weissman, William B. Burley III and Larrie H. Schmidt, who had served together in the Army in Munich, Germany, in 1952.

Weissman's name appeared on the ad, which listed him as chairman of "The American Fact-Finding Committee," with a Dallas post box as the only address.

NO COMMENT was made on the contents of the ad by the commission. But the commission report did express doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald read it on the morning of the assassination. No connection was made between the sponsors of the ad and the slaying of the President.

While in Germany, the commission said, Weissman, Burley and Schmidt devised plans to form two conservative organizations. One was to be called "Conservatism — USA," or CUSA, for political activity, and the other "American Business," or AMBUS, for work in the business community.

Schmidt, on leaving the service in 1952, settled in Dallas, the report said, became a life insurance salesman and began "numerous political activities." Later, he urged Weissman and Burley to move from New York to Dallas.

ON OCT. 1, 1963, the commission said, Schmidt wrote Weissman as follows:

"Adlai Stevenson is scheduled here on the 24th on U.N. Day. Kennedy is scheduled in Dallas on Nov. 24 (sic). 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 subsequently phoned Weissman, again urging him to go to Dallas, and in a later letter he said he had become, overnight, a "fearless spokesman" and "leader" of the right wing in Dallas, according to testimony given the commission by Weissman.

"At Schmidt's solicitation they took steps to join the John Birch Society, and through Schmidt they met the fourth person involved in placing the Nov. 22 advertisement, Joseph P. Grinnan, Dallas independent oil operator and a John Birch Society coordinator in the Dallas area," the commission said.

WEISSMAN GAVE the commission the reasons for deciding to place the newspaper ad:

"... 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.

"But we thought that the conservatives in Dallas — I was told—were a pretty downtrodden lot after that, because they were being oppressed by the local liberals, because of the Stevenson incident. We felt we had to do something to build up the morale of the conservative element, in Dallas. So we hit upon the idea of the ad."

Grinnan undertook to raise \$1,465 to pay for the ad, the commission said, and three Dallas businessmen, Edgar R. Crissey, Nelson Bunker Hunt and H. R. Bright provided the needed money, with some contributions from other individuals.

Weissman testified, the report said, that he considered the ad "the creation of the John Birch Society" but Schmidt and Grinnan have maintained that they were acting "solely as individuals."

THE NAME of the sponsoring organization, "The American Fact-Finding Committee," was "invented out of whole cloth," the commission said.

"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," the commission reported.

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

"Before accepting the advertisement, The Dallas Morning News apparently submitted it to its attorneys for their opinion as

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to whether its publication might subject them to liability." (Ezra A.) Walker in his political and business activities, including the American Eagle Publishing Co. of Dallas.

Promoters of the ad denied any knowledge of or familiarity with Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby, the report said.

THE COMMISSION said its inquiry into the genesis of the ad was prompted in part by allegations made last March 4 by New York attorney Mark Lane, who told the commission that an undisclosed informant had advised him that Weissman met with Jack Ruby and Patrolman J. D. Tippit at Ruby's Carousel Club on Nov. 14.

At a later appearance before the commission on July 2 Lane again declined to name his informant, it was revealed.

"The commission has investigated the allegation of a Weissman-Ruby-Tippit meeting has found no evidence that such a meeting took place anywhere at any time," the commission said.

The commission also detailed its findings about "Wanted for Treason" handbills circulated in Dallas just before the assassination. The handbills bore President Kennedy's likeness.

Identified as the author was Robert A. Surrey, a printing company salesman who "has been closely associated with General

SURREY apparently used the facilities of Johnson Printing Co., where he was employed, to set the type, the report said, and induced Robert G. Klause, employed by Lettercraft Printing Co. of Dallas, to print the handbills without the knowledge of his employers. Surrey paid Klause \$60 for printing 5,000 copies, according to Klause's testimony.

"Klause's testimony," the commission said, "receives some corroboration from Bernard Weissman's testimony that he saw a copy of one of the 'Wanted for Treason' handbills on the floor of General Walker's station wagon shortly after Nov. 22."

Weissman testified that neither he nor his associates had anything to do with the handbills and did not know Surrey or Klause.

"Klause and Surrey, as well as General Walker, testified that they were unacquainted with Lee Harvey Oswald and had not heard of him prior to the afternoon of Nov. 22," the commission said.

"The commission has found no evidence of any connection between those responsible for the handbill and Lee Harvey Oswald or the assassination."