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Secret Service on the Spot To Charge They Were Lax

WASHINGTON, March 17 (UPI)—The Secret Service has refused Congress an on-the-record answer to charges it was lax and disorganized the day President Kennedy was assassinated, according to testimony released today.

"It seems to me doubtful that the Department of the Treasury will want to get involved in a public argument about that," David C. Acheson, special assistant for enforcement to the secretary of the treasury, told a closed session of a House appropriations subcommittee Feb. 9.

Acheson, who has since resigned, appeared before the panel with Chief James J. Rowley of the Secret Service to testify on the agency's budget. The Secret Service, under Treasury jurisdiction, is charged with guarding the President and preventing counterfeiting.

The subject of the assassination was brought up by Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo, D-N.Y., who wanted to know if the Sec-

ret Service planned to answer author William Manchester's allegation that its agents were confused and uncoordinated at the time of Kennedy's murder.

Rowley demurred at answering for the record. When Addabbo insisted he "would just as soon have it on the record, chief," Rowley bucked the question to Acheson.

The Treasury official, disclaiming any intent to set a policy on replying to public comment, said:

"If I thought it would minimize the problem or give the Secret Service the last word over Mr. Manchester, we would have made a clarifying statement very early in the game,

but I am quite sure it will only perpetuate the argument."

WHITE PAPER

But he conceded that "conceivably, when it has all died down, the department could issue some kind of white paper which just lays the facts out, but we are not involved in a prosecution and defense situation with Manchester and don't intend to be."

The testimony indicated the subcommittee was given an off-the-record reply to the charges, however.

Manchester's criticism was contained in his book "Death of a President," to be published April 9. Advance excerpts were serialized in a magazine.

*Assassination of President
 John F. Kennedy*

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- World Journal Tribune (New York) 4 _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____

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