

Federal Inquiry Opened Under Johnson Orders

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WASHINGTON — Amid dozens of unanswered questions, some of them with haunting overtones, two investigations into the assassination of President Kennedy were under way Tuesday, with a third on the horizon.

The Justice Department and FBI, acting at the personal order of President Johnson, continued to throw their full resources into uncovering the facts about the assassination and about the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected assassin.

High officials of the department said they hoped to be able to make a complete report to the President late this week.

They noted, however, that some of the facts concerning Jack Ruby, who shot Oswald in the Dallas police station, may not be made public until after his trial. Prior disclosure might prejudice the proceeding.

50 Agents at Work

More than 50 FBI agents are in Dallas, working under top officials from Washington. Other governmental agencies also are involved. Dallas officials reported late Tuesday that all evidence in their possession had been turned over to the FBI.

At the same time, Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr began conferences in Austin on the court of inquiry he has announced.

On Capitol Hill, Congress moved swiftly to conduct a single, major investigation into the deaths of Mr. Kennedy and Oswald.

Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Ill., said Tuesday night the Senate Judiciary Committee has agreed to begin an immediate, full-scale probe of what one member called "that miserable nightmare."

Senate leaders also agreed that the Judiciary Committee should begin the probe at once.

Several Bills Offered

The vehicle for a congressional investigation could be any one of several bills introduced Monday. These would make an assault or a plot to assault the President a federal crime and tighten up existing laws on the sale of guns through the mail.

The three major questions all of these investigations must attempt to answer are:

1—Were the shootings of the President and of Oswald the acts of individuals or were others involved?

2—What were the motivations of the murderers?

3—Was there a fatal slip in security precautions, either in the arrangements made to protect the President or those made to protect Oswald?

Underlying those basic questions are the others with their haunting overtones.

For example, newspapers in Italy and Austria Tuesday quoted rifle experts as saying it was unlikely one man could have fired three shots in five seconds with great precision from the rifle allegedly used to shoot President Kennedy. It is a European-make rifle.

Sheriff Bill Decker of Dallas said he thought a skilled rifleman could reload the rifle in two seconds. With re-sighting, he said, three shots could be fired in less than 20 seconds.

On the basis of this kind of speculation, European newspapers are wondering if the assassin was alone. Their general theme Tuesday was that there are too many mysterious facts.

Beyond this kind of rumor and concern are other matters that the investigations must try to answer.

How About Map?

Dallas officials first said they found a map in Oswald's room of the presidential route. Tuesday they denied such a map existed. Does it?

Dallas officials said Tuesday letters were found in Oswald's room written to him on stationery of the Communist Party of America. Does he have connections with that party?

There are also reports that Oswald got his job in the building from which the fatal shots were fired after the President's visit to Dallas was announced. Was he then planning the assassination?

After that, the questions roll in.

Did he buy quantities of ammunition and practice with the gun?

Did the Dallas police do their part in protecting the President?

Was the Secret Service told about Oswald: Was he on its list of dangerous characters? Were his reported mutterings about communism while in the Marine Corps reported to the FBI?

Mexican Mystery

What did Oswald actually do during his trip to Mexico in late September and early October? Whom did he talk to? Why did he send in an application for membership in the American Civil Liberties Union, which often provides legal counsel for unpopular defendants, on Nov. 4?

Did Oswald's marriage to a Russian woman have any bearing on his anti-Kennedy attitude? Or is she an innocent bystander?

Was there any connection between Oswald and Ruby? How exactly did Ruby get into the garage of the Dallas police station? Why did none of Oswald's guards appear to be watching the crowd?

What are Ruby's ties with the Chicago underworld? Why was he carrying a gun?