

# WARREN INQUIRY IN ASSASSINATION BEGINS ITS WORK

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## Calls for Subpoena Power, Raising the Possibility of Public Hearings

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By ANTHONY LEWIS  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—The commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination began work today with a long meeting.

It decided to ask Congress for power to subpoena persons and papers. Little opposition was expected, and early passage of the necessary bill was almost certain.

The request for subpoena power opens the possibility that the commission will hold public hearings and otherwise make its own, detailed search for the facts.

The alternative would be to appraise material gathered by others, especially the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The commission did not indicate that any decision had been made on the scope of its inquiry. It was not likely that such a decision could even be approached at this early stage.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, the chairman, said after the meeting that the commission had no official information yet.

"We are deliberating somewhat in the dark," he said, "because we have no report as yet from any agency of the Government. The information we have now is little more than what we have learned through the news media."

The meeting, which lasted two hours and 40 minutes, was primarily for organizational purposes. That task was not completed, and will be continued in a session tomorrow afternoon.

The meeting was held in a hearing room of the National Archives Building. The Chief Justice sat at one end of a long table, with the six other members on either side.

### Katzenbach Present

On one side were Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia; John J. McCloy, former High Commissioner for Germany, and Representative Gerald Ford, Michigan Republican.

On the other side were Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky; Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana, and Allen W. Dulles, former chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Photographers were allowed in before the meeting began. Then the doors were closed.

Deputy Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach attended about half the session.

He has been in charge of the Justice Department's handling of the aftermath of the tragedy.

Mr. Katzenbach was not yet able to transmit to the commission the department's report on the assassination and the subsequent murder of the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. The report turned over  
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the report to Mr. Katzenbach this evening. Justice officials still have much work to do on it before it is sent to President Johnson and, presumably, the commission.

Part or all of the report may be made public when it is completed. Meanwhile, a reconstruction of the assassination was still being carried out in Dallas today by Federal agents.

Indications are that the commission will work without publicity. The members took care not to speak to reporters today. It is believed that every effort will be made to preserve a judicial atmosphere.

For reasons of legal propriety it is considered likely that the commission will steer clear of any findings about Jack Ruby until he has been tried. The trial of the Dallas night-club operator who shot Oswald is scheduled for February.

Chief Justice Warren answered a few questions after the meeting. He said the Congressional members of the commission would introduce the subpoena legislation.

The commission's few current expenses are being met from the President's contingency fund. If heavy costs are incurred, for such things as hearings, Congress may be asked to appropriate funds.