

WPM SL - EDITORIAL 1/30
The Assassination Inquiry

Chief Justice Warren was wise to make clear that there will be no deadline for the report of the commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. The commission will report, Justice Warren said, "when we are satisfied we have done the best job it is possible for us to do."

Previously, the staff of the commission which the Chief Justice heads had suggested a target date of July 1 to avoid involvement in the national political conventions. This is a worthy motive, but setting the date in this way suggests political implications where there should be none. Besides, the commission might not complete its investigation by that time and would find its members being criticized for delay.

Justice Warren is well aware that politicians may seek to make use of the report whatever its contents, and he will have that in mind when the decision is made on the release date. But he also understands that the people are entitled to the report as promptly as it can be compiled after the commission is convinced that all the facts obtainable are in hand.

Meanwhile, it is noticeable that while speculation on certain details of the assassination continues, it has narrowed to fewer points than were raised immediately after the event. Some of the questions to which answers still are sought are discussed in today's Mirror of Public Opinion. It is quite possible that by the time the report is issued the public will have come to accept certain theories on most of the points remaining at issue.

So, unless the commission privately receives new and startling information, its report may consist mainly of filling in details. It will be historic, but it may not be sensational at all.