

Warren Group Rejects Security Risk Charges

Controversial Professor, Other Members Cleared to Handle Classified Information

LA - 5/20
BY ROBERT E. THOMPSON

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission Tuesday, following a study of FBI reports, unanimously cleared Prof. Norman Redlich and all other staff members to handle classified information.

By its action, the seven-member commission rejected charges that Redlich might be a security risk because of his affiliation with the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, an alleged Communist front organization.

The commission was named by President Johnson to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Group Criticized

In its statement the commission said it had reviewed all the field investigations concerning the security clearance of its employees and had "unanimously cleared all of the members of its staff to handle classified information."

Three Republican congressmen and one Republican senator have criticized the commission for hiring

Redlich in view of his association with the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which in the 1950s was labeled a Communist front organization by two committees of Congress.

Redlich, a New York University law professor, listed the affiliation when he applied for employment with the commission. He has explained that he became involved with the group because of his deep belief in civil liberties.

Met For 3 Hours

When the controversy over Redlich first began some weeks ago, the FBI launched an exhaustive investigation of the professor's activities and associations. It made similar surveys of other staff members.

The reports were circulated last week among the seven members of the commission, which is headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. The commission met for three hours Monday to go over the investigative data and reach the conclusion that none of its employees is a security risk.