

Probers Begin Writing Kennedy Slaying Report

Warren Group Sets June 30 for Completion of Document but Will Call More Witnesses

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WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission has begun writing its report to the nation on the slaying of President John F. Kennedy — findings based on mountains of evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

The commission has set June 30 as target date for completing the report, official sources said, but meantime will call still more witnesses to round out its intensive six-month investigation.

Still to be heard in person — at a secret time and place — is Mrs. Kennedy, the widowed First Lady whose dress was stained with blood when a sniper's bullets killed the President and wounded Texas Gov. John Connally in Dallas Nov. 22.

But the basic work of the seven-member commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren is considered done, and staff groups are drafting separately the several segments of what may be a 500-page summary.

The Warren Report, with its supporting documents and testimony, are expected to rival in exhaustiveness and bulk the massive report of the Pearl Harbor Commission after World War II.

Basic Evidence

Barring a sensational reversal of information in the month ahead, officials indicated, the report will peel away the heavy layers of rumors, speculations and suspicion and present a basic core of evidence that:

1. Oswald — a hater of authority, a self-taught and self-asserted Marxist, and an unstable ne'er-do-well at age 24 — designed and executed the murder without helpers

or co-conspirators.

2. The man who shot Oswald to death 48 hours later — and thus destroyed all hope of getting a confession — had not known Oswald and was not involved in any plot to silence him. Convicted of Oswald's murder, night club owner Jack Ruby awaits execution in Dallas, occasionally exploding in wild outbursts.

3. No connection can be traced between Oswald's deed and any plot developed in Russia, Cuba or Mexico. Some have suspected a foreign conspiracy because Oswald visited Russia and Mexico, proclaimed pro-Castro sympathies, and had tried and failed to get Soviet citizenship.

4 — The motive seemingly lay in the murky, embittered and introverted mind of the ex-Marine sharpshooter; Oswald's wife said he had become "abnormal," and the evidence disclosed that his mother had ignored a school physician's recommendation that he be given psychiatric treatment.

400 Witnesses

The testimony of some 400 witnesses, plus thousands of investigation reports and at least 800 items of physical evidence, were said to substantiate overwhelmingly

the original findings of the FBI.

Still secret, the five-volume FBI report is part of the commission's evidence. Delivered in December, it is known to indicate that Oswald was the sole slayer. But FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who lauded the Warren Commission's thoroughness, disclosed that his agents have sent "many thousands" more investigation reports to the Presidential commission since then, and still are tracking down tips and leads including many supplied by the Presidential commission itself.

The commission's greatest problem, some sources say, has been to establish a negative truth — not merely to evaluate the wealth of evidence pinning guilt on Oswald, but also to establish

that the crime could not or might not have been perpetrated by someone else or by some secret group using Oswald and helping him.

Other Questions

Many of the myriad of conflicting reports and rumors seemed baseless or fabricated from the start, but the commission checked out each one in the effort to erase any lingering doubt that the public knows all that can be known.

The Warren report is expected, moreover, to deal with such questions as:

1 — Whether the Secret Service and Dallas police took all prescribed safety measures before and during the Presidential visit.

2 — Whether there was laxity, misbehavior or inefficiency on the part of any federal agents.

3 — Whether more stringent safeguards should be established for the safety of Presidents.

The nation has received Warren's personal assurance that no federal official or agency will be spared if censure is warranted. Some testimony received may not be made public "in your lifetime" if it involves national security, the chief justice said, but:

"I can assure you that

nothing will be withheld because it might be embarrassing to the agency concerned."

Rumors and Reports

The investigation is known to have turned up no substantiation for — or to have actually rebutted or discredited—scores of the rumors and reports which flew around the world six months ago.

These were among them:

1—That one or more shots came from the railroad overpass ahead of the Presidential limousine instead of from a window of the Texas School Book Depository Building, to the right and rear, where Oswald worked and where a rifle identified

as his was found in a sniper's nest.

This report, suggesting that Oswald had an undiscovered accomplice, is contradicted by the autopsy report. It shows that both bullets which struck Mr. Kennedy and the one that hit Connally came from the rear, and that a fragment of one of them emerged from the front of Mr. Kennedy's throat.

2—That a published picture showed Oswald standing in the door of the building at the very moment the rifle shots came from the sixth floor.

The man in the picture was Billy Lovelady of Dallas. He told Warren Commission agents he has 20 witnesses to verify his identity and position.

3—That Oswald was secretly a U.S. intelligence agent, and—in the words of his mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald—was "set up to take the blame."

FBI Director Hoover and Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone emphatically denied the story, and Mrs. Oswald told the commission herself that it was unsupported "speculation."

4—That the slaying was a

Communist conspiracy.

Wide Investigation

Intensive investigation here and abroad, both overt and underground, is understood to have turned up no sign of either a Communist plot or—as some have argued — a "right-wing conspiracy" in the United States.

5—That four shots, not three, were fired.

One witness from Dallas said he was telling the commission he definitely heard four, but a large number of witnesses, including Gov. Connally, agreed that only three were heard.

(Television station KRLD in Dallas said it had learned that the Warren Commission's report will show that the first bullet hit both the President and Gov. Connally, and that the third shot went wild.

(It said in a copyrighted story that this information came from a source close to the Warren Commission. Previous thinking had been that the first bullet hit the President, the second hit the governor and the third fatally wounded President Kennedy.)

Among the rumors and

reports for which the investigation is known to have produced no substantiation, also were these:

1—That Oswald's young wife, Marina, on the day of the slaying, told police she did not believe the rifle found in the sniper's nest was Oswald's.

Oswald's mother so testified to the Warren Commission. But the Russian-born Marina herself identified the gun as the Italian-made carbine with telescopic sights which was purchased by Oswald by mail under the name of A. Hidell. That was the same name Oswald used in New Orleans last summer, the wife said.

Police found on the rifle a palm print and shirt threads

both identified as Oswald's. Ballistic tests indicate it was the same gun which had fired a bullet at former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, conservative leader, in April. Mrs. Oswald said her husband had boasted to her of shooting at Walker. That bullet missed.

2 — That Oswald denied the assassination in a jail conversation with his brother, Robert, on the day after the shooting.

Robert Oswald's attorney said Lee had made no denial, and a commission member said Robert gave no such testimony to the investigators.