

How to Release Warren Report Stirs Dilemma

Chief Counsel of Commission Bombarded With Questions by Newsmen at Briefing

WASHINGTON (AP) — A spokesman for the Warren Commission — nearing a month's-long investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — was bombarded by questions Tuesday as to how it plans to release its report.

The commission is headed by Earl Warren, chief justice of the United States, and its report is expected to be bulkier than the Manhattan telephone directory.

This question faces the commission:

How to release the report so as to have maximum impact not only on the American public, but on people abroad, where strange and unsupported rumors of a widespread "plot" have been current?

All indications are that the report — if boiled down to layman's language — will say this: one man, backed by no widespread organization, shot the President, and another man, equally isolated, shot the assassin.

Supporting Data

But how to release this report, backed by its mass of supporting data?

The Warren Commission held a secret conference Tuesday and its chief counsel, J. Lee Rankin, came out and briefed newsmen.

There was, he said first, a thought that the commission would permit its picture to be taken soon. He said in that case all photographers would be notified well in advance.

Then, he said, a plan was under consideration whereby contracts would be signed between the government and information media. These media would be supplied the text of the report somewhat in advance of other media on condition that they would "observe security," not publish the report before the specified

release date and then publish it in full.

A newspaper reporter, conscious of reports that certain paperback book firms had negotiations with the Warren Commission, asked:

"How can a government commission, engaged on such a project of grave national import, engage in contractual negotiations with private concerns?"

"You will have to take this up," Rankin said, "with Mr. George Reedy (press secretary) at the White House."

"Why not," Rankin was asked, "release it to everybody simultaneously, maybe three or four days in advance so everybody will get a chance to read it before writing about it?"

"There again," Rankin said, "you will have to take it up with Mr. Reedy."

Reedy told a newsman: "As far as the White House is concerned, no plans have been made for the release of the report. We will give consideration to this matter at an appropriate time."

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