

CAMPAIGN IMPACT BELIEVED LIKELY

'Kennedy Legacy' Could Aid
Democrats at the Polls

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The effects of the Warren Commission's report are sure to extend far beyond its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy last Nov. 22.

The massive document could have repercussions in the 1964 elections, on the present conduct of President Johnson, and ultimately on the availability to the public of Mr. Johnson and future Presidents.

It may produce major changes for the Secret Service, the agency now assigned to protect the President. The assignments and powers of other agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and even the Central Intelligence Agency might be revamped and independent review of their activities and efficiency might be increased.

In the field of legislation, the report might produce—as recommended by the Commission—a law making it a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill a President, a Vice President or any office next in line to the Presidency and the President-elect and Vice President-elect. Other legislation, particularly relating to security and investigative agencies and to the protection of Presidents, could also grow from the report.

Although the State Department was generally cleared of

any serious mishandling of Oswald who defected to the Soviet Union, then returned with American assistance—enough doubt about its procedures was expressed so that some State Department officials believe a Congressional investigation is possible.

The Commission called sharply for more discipline on the part of the press. This may result in prompting one of the various editors or publishers' associations to adopt new ethical standards to include coverage of criminal cases.

2 Possible Effects

Two major effects that could have resulted from the Commission's task are not apparent

in the report.

One might have been a far to the United States relations with the Soviet Union. The report not only absolves the Soviet Union of any complicity in the assassination, but also asserts that Russia, in any case, had no motive for nor interest in killing Mr. Kennedy.

The other is that nothing in the report lends any credence to or supports the widely expressed theory that Oswald was affected by the conservative sentiment popular in Dallas, or that he was either acting on behalf of or because he had been influenced by "hate groups" or bigots.

The report cited Oswald's attempt to shoot former Maj. General Edwin A. Walker, a right-wing leader, as evidence that he had an extreme dislike of the right-wing.

That finding tends to vindicate Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican Presidential candidate, who had criticized Mr. Johnson's injection of the hate theme in his first address to Congress attacking Communists.

Mr. Goldwater said had introduced "the hate theme when the trigger was pulled." Then, he said, it had been picked up by "radical columnists and kept going."

The opinion of political observers here is that the greater political effect—if any—of the Warren report would be in favor of the Democrats—particularly Mr. Johnson and former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who is now running for the United States Senate in New York.

That opinion is based on the supposition that the report and the vast public attention directed to it would tend to evoke fond memories of President Kennedy and reverence for his memory.

'The Kennedy Legacy'

Already, the "Kennedy legacy" is considered one of the Democrats' major assets in this election year.

Since he took over the Presidency, Mr. Johnson has taken the phrase "Let us continue" as his theme and has consistently pictured himself as carrying out and building upon the programs of his predecessor.

Kennedy Administration, almost intact, remained to become the Johnson Administration.

Mr. Johnson, Robert Kennedy and other Democratic candidates invoke the name of John Kennedy in their speeches as frequently as Democratic candidates used to call upon the memory of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

One result that could become apparent in the fairly near future might be new inhibitions on Mr. Johnson, who now is beginning to travel widely in the Presidential campaign.

Security Problems Scored

The Warren report graphically

pictures the dangers to a President surrounded by crowds or riding in a motorcade, and quotes J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as saying that "total security" is not possible. The Commission points out also that a President himself causes many security problems. It does not specify, but obviously has in mind such exam-

ples as the unwillingness of President Kennedy to have his car surrounded by bodyguards in motorcades, and Mr. Johnson's predilection for plunging directly into crowds to shake hands.

The report makes a specific recommendation that the White House physician should be physically near the President at all times.

This generally is carried out but Mr. Johnson on occasion has flown on trips out of Washington in a small plane in which there was no room for Adm. George Burkley, his physician. Legislation now is pending in Congress to extend Secret Service protection to all major party national candidates, whether in office or not.

Beyond the election campaign, the Warren report, if its recommendations are followed, would impose much greater security precautions around the President.

Primarily in the fields of advance detection of threats against him from any quarter, preventive police work, and in increased security personnel and procedures.

Of most immediate interest in Washington is the future of the agencies most directly criticized by the Warren Commission—the Secret Service and the F.B.I. Tangentially, the C.I.A. might become involved in future changes because it provides certain intelligence and security activities when a President travels abroad.

F.B.I. Was Criticized

Many here believed the Secret Service, as now constituted, might not survive the rebuke administered to it in the Commission's reports.

The Warren report also offered a rare official criticism of the F.B.I., an agency that has been nearly sacrosanct both in Washington and in the public mind.

To the extent that the F.B.I.'s reputation for infallibility has been tarnished, and to the extent that any new procedures might bring it more closely into coordination with other Government agencies, its powers and influence might also be reduced.

In addition, the Warren report recommended that a Cabinet-level committee review independently the protection of the President. If such a committee materialized, it would almost surely have some jurisdiction over the F.B.I. as well as the Secret Service.

In the same way, the C.I.A. might find itself to some extent under a new form of outside scrutiny.

4/18

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