

JFK Accounting Asked

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON—The four congressional members of the special commission that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy are asking for a financial accounting of the year-long inquiry.

No report has ever been submitted to the seven-member commission—which formally concluded its work in September 1964.

The bipartisan group of legislators (two Democrats, two Republicans) decided, after discussing the matter for some time, that a detailed financial accounting should be presented and made part of the official records of the commission.



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IT WAS their understanding this would be done before the commission disbanded. But for some unclear reason, nothing came of that.

So in identical letters to Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman, and Lee Rankin, general counsel, who was solicitor general in the Eisenhower administration, the four congressional leaders have requested that the commission be reconvened for the express purpose of receiving and acting on a comprehensive financial statement.

They also proposed that an announcement be issued on the final disposition of the huge mass of documents, transcripts, exhibits and

other material, and their availability for study by authorized individuals. This also has never been done.

All the commission's records are in the custody of the U. S. Archives, on historic Pennsylvania Avenue halfway between the Capital and the White House.

THE legislators are Senators Richard Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee; John Sherman Cooper, R-Ky., former ambassador to India; Representatives Hale Boggs, D-La., majority whip, and Gerald Ford, R-Mich, minority leader.

In addition to Chief Justice Warren, the other members are Allen Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and John McCloy, one-time chief of the World Bank.

On May 5 of this year, this column disclosed that the commission's year-long investigation had cost \$1.2 million.

Biggest single expenditure was \$225,650, for "salaries and related benefits."

THIS information was contained in an unpublished "financial statement" compiled by the budget division of the General Services Administration.

There was no indication of the source of the \$1.2 million in the GSA report. It was authoritatively understood the money came from contingency funds available to President Johnson—who initiated the investigation and appointed the seven members.

The commission's 888-

page report is still in popular demand.

As of Oct. 1 of this year, the Government Printing Office has sold more than 142,000 copies for a total of \$444,418. Significantly, of these sales, 116,164 were hard cover at \$3.25; 26,754, paperback at \$2.50.

IN ADDITION, the GOP has sold 1,684 sets of the 26-volume hearings at \$76 a set, for a total of \$127,984.

Over-all total of these sales is \$572,402.

In addition, 8,250 complete sets of findings and hearings were distributed free. This has never been officially revealed.

Similarly—undisclosed is the fact that the allocation of these give-aways was made by McGeorge Bundy, highly influential foreign affairs assistant of the President. How and why the former Harvard dean was designated to do this is unknown.

EMPTY GESTURE—Congress is on the verge of adjourning, but that Committee on Standards and Conduct, set up by the Senate early this year as a direct out-growth of the sensational Bobby Baker disclosures, is still little more than a title.

It has neither a chairman nor staff, and has done nothing.

In late August, at the repeated insistence of Senator John Sherman Cooper, R-Ky., whose resolution created the committee, a meeting finally was held. But outside of a general discussion about the scope and functions of the body, nothing was done.

Owing to the illness of Senator Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., selection of a chairman was postponed—and still remains unfinished business.

LONG ISLAND STAR-JOURNAL

10-22-65

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