

Warren Report Sales Lag as Doubters Grow

New Books Attack Methods and Findings of 1964 Inquiry Into Kennedy Assassination

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NEW YORK (AP)—Books criticizing the Warren Report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy still roll off the presses—but the report itself appeared Sunday to have petered out as a best seller.

The summary of the investigation by a commission headed by Earl Warren, chief justice of the United States, was issued in 1964.

Millions of copies were sold in the United States and abroad, including translations into French, Spanish and Italian.

The report was published in hardback form by the Associated Press, Doubleday and McGraw-Hill. The Government Printing Office produced clothbound and paperback versions. The report was offered in paperback by Bantam Books, in conjunction with the New York Times, and the Popular Library.

About the time the demand for the report died down, various authors began publishing books that attacked the Warren commission's methods and findings.

There were "The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination," by Sylvester Fox; "The Oswald Affair," by Leo Sauvage; "The Quest," by Edward Jay Epstein, and, more recently, "Rush to Judgment," by Mark Lane. A few lesser works have been printed privately at the author's expense.

Despite the continuing controversy, sales of the report have dwindled to a trickle. The Doubleday and Associated Press hardbacks are out of print. The Government Printing Office sold only 249 cloth and paperback copies during August.

Bantam described interest in the report as "low" but said it is questioning dealers to find out whether books challenging the report are arousing fresh reader interest.

A spokesman for the Popular Library said sales are "negligible" although there is "still some school interest."

The Soviet Union last month forbade further distribution of the report in the U.S. The commission's conclusion that Lee

Harvey Oswald alone engineered the assassination of the President runs counter to a Soviet version—that Mr. Kennedy's slaying resulted from a right-wing conspiracy of "Texas oil barons."

When the Warren report was first issued, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow gave English-language copies to 80 top Soviet officials and distributed another 1,050 English-language summaries.

Last July the embassy stopped passing out Russian-language copies. Of these, 653 had been handed to Soviet citizens when the ban was imposed.