

Evidence Withheld in Kennedy Slaying Bishop Pike Insists

BY ERNEST SCHONBERGER
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Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike insisted Monday that vital evidence in President John F. Kennedy's assassination has been suppressed, but he denied having said Mr. Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy rather than a lone assassin.

He said the Associated Press misquoted him on that point Saturday in New York, but observed that "it was an oral interview, and that can happen."

Bishop Pike said he does believe certain reports were suppressed "because we were thinking of the image of the United States. We didn't want people to be disturbed around the world. People would think there was a conspiracy."

He said 90% of the information produced by the Central Intelligence Agency in some vital areas was withheld from the public, as was half the evidence produced by the FBI. He did not say whether the material was suppressed by the agencies or by the Warren Commission.

The controversial churchman, now a scholar-in-residence at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara, was here for an address at Cal State, L.A. His comments were made in an interview and in the address.

He said evidence of suppression in the Kennedy investigation had been brought to him by Edward M. Keating, publisher of Ramparts Magazine. It had been prepared and given to Keating by a friend who formerly worked for the FBI but not for the Warren Commission, he said.

Bishop Pike, Keating and Abraham Ribicoff of the Jewish Labor

gical Seminary in New York have formed a committee to ask President Johnson to release any undisclosed information.

They have said they would accept the lone assassin theory only if it is confirmed by examination of the withheld data.

"I just want the facts," the bishop said. "We should first look at the truth—the same as with the church. . . . Hopefully, the more truth, the more relevance."

Earlier he spoke to 450 students in California State's Campus Theater. Almost all of them were turned away from the

by . . . renewed his question of such traditional church concepts as eternal life, the Trinity and the omnipotence of God.

He affirmed a belief in God but declared that classical religion is looking "a stranger and stranger . . . prefab thing. It's a big book you find in your motel room."

He said he has not denied traditional concepts but does not see the basis for positively asserting them.

"Clear me or unfrock me," he demanded in a challenge to the leagues . . .