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Sen. Russell Still Not Satisfied With Findings

ATLANTA (AP) — Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), a member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is still not fully satisfied with the findings. But neither has he joined the ranks of recent critics.

"You can raise questions — yes. The test is, can you answer them?" Russell said recently in an interview at his home in Winder, Ga.

However, he said, any group of honorable men, given the same evidence, would have come to the same conclusions as the Warren Commission.

Russell did not want to serve on the commission and objected privately to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the chairman.

Refused to Sign

"I'm the only man who bucked the report," he said. "I told them, 'I'm not going to sign it as long as it's this way.'"

Russell's adamancy apparently resulted in significant alterations of key findings. The senator said he prepared dissents to three points.

Russell objected to the final wording that

ed categorically there been no conspiracy. He insisted the report should go no further than a finding that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed Mr. Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

"Warren was determined he was going to have a unanimous report

Russell said. "I said it

couldn't be any true that to put a little asterisk up here (in the text) and then down at the bottom of the page saying: 'Sen. Russell dissents to this finding as follows.'

"But Warren wouldn't hear of it. He finally took that part and rewrote himself."

Pinpoints Concern

Russell said he was concerned about two points.

—He was not sufficiently assured that the Soviet Union had provided

all the information available on Oswald's 1958 stay in Russia.

2—He was not satisfied that all facts were brought out about Oswald's Cuba-related activities. (Oswald had dealings with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and had told consular officials in Mexico City about eight weeks before the assassination that he wanted permission to visit Cuba

on his way to Russia.)

Russell disagreed from the outset with the theory that the first bullet fired by Oswald hit Mr. Kennedy and then hit Connally.

Russell said he agreed with Connally, a deer hunter, in rejecting the one bullet theory. The senator also had strong criticisms of the questioning of the best witnesses before the commission.