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Acutely Embarrassing

The embarrassment of the Warren Commission should be acute. Indeed, it should be so massive that without hesitation NORMAN REDLICH, a \$100-a-day legal consultant of the group, would be summarily discharged.

In simple language, this is the presidential commission formed to investigate the circumstances that led to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY in Dallas last Nov. 22. It is a prestige group, headed by Chief Justice EARL WARREN of the Supreme Court.

These, then, are the facts about NORMAN REDLICH, as revealed by THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL's Washington bureau chief, MORRIS CUNNINGHAM:

REDLICH was hired by the commission to help it sift all possible evidence. He has been found to be associated with a number of organizations linked with the Communist movement in this country, and he has been a supporter of assorted "causes" of the Communist Party, U.S.A. One such was the motley gang of young leftists who traveled to Red Cuba without legal passports and in defiance of a State Department order; NORMAN REDLICH signed and supported propaganda that was patently pro-communist.

He has opposed a Supreme Court decision which required the Communist Party, U.S.A., to register as a foreign agent with the Subversive Activities Control Board.

He has actively participated in a movement to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, long a favorite cause of the Communist Party in this country.

News accounts have developed other equally suspicious associations by REDLICH with anti-American activities.

The fact that LEE HARVEY OSWALD, the slayer of President KENNEDY, was also pro-communist, and at one time defected to the Soviet Union, makes the hiring of such a lawyer by the Warren Commission inconceivable. OSWALD and his background are the focal points of the commission's inquiry.

Members of Congress have demanded that he be fired from this post in which trust and integrity are absolute necessities.

So long as he remains on the job, the confidence of the public in the study being made by the Warren Commission will be eroded. The damage already is great.

Why the delay?

Strange Silence

Prof. NORMAN REDLICH, the controversial \$100-a-day legal consultant of the Warren Commission, has not been discharged or forced to retire, and members of the commission adamantly refuse to discuss the matter.

The Warren Commission, of course, is the official body which has spent six months investigating the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY by LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Since OSWALD was murdered before he could be tried in court, this study takes the place of a trial that would establish guilt on the basis of all evidence available.

OSWALD was pro-Communist. He had at one time defected to the Soviet Union and lived there. He married a Russian girl and then brought her back to the United States to live. He wound up in Dallas, where Mr. KENNEDY was slain on Nov. 22, 1963.

As for REDLICH, a New York college professor, his association with leftist and pro-Communist causes has put him in a wholly untenable position as a consultant to the Warren Commission in this sensitive effort to meet the demands of American justice.

Chief Justice EARL WARREN of the Supreme Court, head of the investigative commission, has refused to be questioned about REDLICH.

So has J. LEE RANKIN, the commission's director.

On down the line, through the members of the group, there is no comment.

Apparently the Warren Commission has decided that the easiest way out of a tight situation is to allow REDLICH's contract to expire quietly in June, without renewal. This is rather meaningless, since the report of the commission is expected in June anyway.

The line of thought behind this wall of silence seems to be that the commission fears that firing REDLICH would cast doubt over the authenticity of the entire investigation of the Dallas assassination.

But the doubts are there even so, and in fact are magnified by the peculiar reluctance of the Warren Commission to discuss the hiring and continued employment of a man who had no business being involved in a case that points to a killer whose own political and philosophical ideas were so closely allied to those of one of his investigators.