

FROM
REPRESENTATIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

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Washington, D. C. -- Rep. Theodore R. Kupferman (R-N.Y.) told the House today that "we can no longer consider the alleged truths of the Warren Commission Report to be self-evident."

In doing so, the Manhattan legislator called upon Congress to establish a Joint Congressional Committee to examine all documents relating to the assassination--particularly evidence that has never been officially examined--and to issue a public report of its findings.

Mr. Kupferman condemned the Executive Branch of the Government for nonfeasance and for being party to what he called a "conspiracy of silence." He said that since the Kennedy family placed the autopsy photographs and X-rays on deposit at the Archives, even qualified investigative authorities have been denied access to them.

It is "ironic" the New York City Republican observed, that in response to his own request for admittance with a group of acknowledged experts in pathology to review the X-rays and photographs, the Executive Branch denied his request on the grounds that:

"The Public interest in the X-rays and photographs as a part of the historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy is appropriately served, not only by their deposit and preservation in National Archives, but also by the provision for unrestricted access by any official government body, including committees of the Congress, having authority to investigate matters relating to the assassination."

Mr. Kupferman told the Members that, "The best evidence, it appears, remains to be examined. It is fundamental to our system of law that the best evidence, when available, should be examined. The Executive Branch refuses to take any action. Only the Congress of the United States, with its investigative powers, remains available to do the job. I hope the Congress will not be content to sit by while the status of the American peoples' 'right to know' regresses and their unanswered questions multiply," Mr. Kupferman said.

Congressman Kupferman's statement to the House, the recent correspondence with the Executive Branch and with Burke Marshall, representative, acting for the Kennedy family, and Mr. Kupferman's statement on the introduction of his original Resolution on September 28, 1966 are all attached.

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STATEMENT BY REP. THEODORE R. KUPFERMAN (R.-N.Y.) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
UPON REINTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMITTEE
TO DETERMINE THE NECESSITY OF A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY -- APRIL 13, 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I am today reintroducing my Concurrent Resolution for a Joint Congressional Committee to determine the necessity for reinvestigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

In the 89th Congress on September 28, 1966, the second anniversary of the Warren Commission Report (see Congressional Record, page 23203), I introduced H.Con.Res. 1023, pointing out that the official Report, with respect to the assassination of President Kennedy, had created more doubts than it had settled. Subsequent polls proved that this was so (see Congressional Record of October 4, 1966, page 24043).

The alleged truths of the Warren Commission Report can no longer, if ever, be considered self-evident.

The reason the Congress must now act is that the Executive Branch, in the most obvious areas of doubt, has engaged in a conspiracy of silence and inaction, when clearly there is a need for sound action and high-level investigation.

The refusal of the Executive Branch to take necessary action has been demonstrated in the situation involving the X-rays and the photographs of the autopsy of the late President Kennedy. It has become increasingly clear to me, throughout the rising controversy subsequent to President Kennedy's assassination and the publication of the Warren Report, that this material, which the Warren Commission as a matter of non-feasance had failed to examine, should be officially examined.

Accordingly, on December 27, 1966, I wrote to the Chief Archivist of the United States requesting an opportunity, together with some outstanding and knowledgeable people in the field, to view these items. Copies of my communication with the National Archives, as well as copies of the replies received in this regard, follow at the end of this statement.

There have been many doubts raised about the findings contained in the Warren Report, but in my opinion the most vulnerable is that known as the "single bullet theory". One cannot read the Warren Report without realizing the importance of this theory to its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy.

If the first bullet entered just below President Kennedy's shoulder, and failed to exit, then the single bullet theory, the cornerstone of the Warren Commission Report, is not substantiated. If the bullet in question entered at the rear of the neck, passed completely through the neck, and exited through the throat, then the theory may be sustained. The answer may well be contained in the films and X-rays of the autopsy report.

Governor Connally of Texas, who was directly involved, and others do not accept the single bullet theory.

There has been so much confusion and ambiguity over this and many of the other basic findings of the Commission that, under the circumstances, and with my request, reason would dictate that the Executive Branch would have at least asked for an official report with an analysis of the X-rays and photographs. Rather, the response to my request can only resemble the Warren Report itself in the mountain of paperwork, but lack of a valid conclusion. The circuitousness involved is the equivalent of the circular file.

Upon receipt of my request, the Chief Archivist referred the matter to Burke Marshall, who has been designated by the Kennedy family to act in its behalf in matters relating to these materials. He denied my request by letter of January 25, 1967.

I wrote to President Johnson on February 16, 1967. His Office stated:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington
February 17, 1967

Dear Congressman:

For the President, may I acknowledge your letter of February 16 to the President regarding your request to examine the X-rays and photographs taken during the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Your letter and enclosures will be given careful attention.

Sincerely yours,
(signed)
Henry H. Wilson, Jr.
Administrative Assistant
to the President

Honorable Theodore R. Kupferman
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

The matter was then referred back to the General Services Administration by the President's Office, where the Administrator gave me the same answer that I had previously received. It is ironical that the Administrator in his letter of reply states:

The public interest in the X-rays and photographs as a part of the historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy is appropriately served, not only by their deposit and preservation in National Archives, but also by the provision for unrestricted access by any official government body, including committees of the Congress, having authority to investigate matters relating to the assassination.

This, of course, was the basis of my request in my letter to President Johnson. This correspondence, hereinafter attached, is an exercise in bureaucracy and futility. More significantly, it amounts to deliberate failure on the part of the Executive Branch to inform the American people in a vital area, one about which the public has a right to know more.

Inasmuch as the Executive Branch will not face its responsibilities and take necessary action, only the Congress of the United States, with its investigative powers, remains available to do the job that must be done.

Attached hereto is my original statement on the introduction of my original Resolution, H.Con.Res. 1023, and my correspondence relative to the X-rays and photographs.

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