

Former Kennedy Aide Suggests Panel to Check Warren Report

By EDITH EVANS ASBURY

A former aide to President Kennedy suggested yesterday that an independent group look into charges that the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination was inadequate.

Richard N. Goodwin, speech writer, trouble-shooter and adviser to President Kennedy, suggested that a small panel of experts first check the report.

If they find it inadequate, a larger panel should re-evaluate the findings and seek new evidence, Mr. Goodwin said.

Mr. Goodwin is the first member of the late President's inner circle to suggest publicly that an official re-examination be made of the Warren report.

'Demands Answers'

He makes his proposals in a review of "Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth," written by Edward Jay Epstein and published by Viking. The book "not only raises questions but demands explanations and answers," Mr. Goodwin says in "Dead Week," published today.

Mr. Goodwin said yesterday in a telephone interview that he believes an investigation should be conducted by persons who had no connection with public life.

"People like the dean of Yale or Harvard Law School or a retired judge or former employee of the Justice Department," he explained.

"They should be people so independent of public life that they can undertake the very difficult task of perhaps having to criticize those appointed by the President to conduct the Warren investigation."

Mr. Goodwin remained at the White House until September 1962, when he became a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies, Wesleyan University. He has been associated with the center ever since.

Mr. Epstein, a Harvard law professor, undertook his study of the Warren Commission report as a member of that body.

In his book, he says he found the Warren report "filled with errors of commission and omission."

Mr. Goodwin said the Warren report was "seriously flawed. But here is a book which presents such a case with a logic and a subdued and reasonable tone which have already disturbed the convictions of many responsible men."

It may all rest on quicksand, but we will not know that until we make an even more extensive examination than the author has made.

"An independent group should look at these charges and determine whether the commission investigation was so defective that another inquiry is necessary."

"Such a procedure will perhaps unnecessarily stimulate rumors and doubts and disturb some people. Yet there seems to be no other course if we want to be sure that we know as much as we can about what happened on Nov. 22, 1963."

Mr. Goodwin, a 34-year-old graduate of Harvard Law School, said yesterday that he believed the independent group he proposed should be supported by Congress.

"If it finds that further investigation is necessary, a larger commission could be set up by Congressional resolution," he said.

That larger commission should include on its staff persons trained to investigate and "scientific experts able to evaluate ballistics and medical evidence, and look at movie frames," Mr. Goodwin said.

He said he had discussed his reaction to the book with other associates of the late President "and they all do about it." He declined to identify those associates.

Lee Hinkle, who was chief counsel to the Warren Commission, declined to comment on the book.

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