

11-22-66
104 Post

Assassination Row Mounts; Russell Hits Warren Report

By RALPH BLUMENFELD

The Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination was challenged publicly today for the first time by a member of the commission itself, Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.).

On the third anniversary of the Dallas tragedy, Russell added a politically powerful voice to the rising criticism of the Warren Report—and specifically of its "single bullet" theory.

Russell said he agrees with

by Sen. Long (D-La.), who called for further investigation of the assassination.

Historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., in Oxford, Miss., last night, also said the doubts being raised warrant "a very intensive inquiry" by a commission established by Congress.

Russell, at his home in Wind-er, Ga., told an Atlanta newspaper that he had insisted on some revisions before signing the Warren report and "still is not fully satisfied" with its findings.

Some of the report's critics say at least three bullets hit Kennedy and thus there had to be two or more assassins and a conspiracy, rather than a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Russell, while disavowing any connection with such critics, said he had objected to the report's original wording which said categorically that no conspiracy was involved.

Chief Justice Warren, the commissions chairman, "was determined he was going to have a unanimous report, Russell said. "I said it wouldn't be any trouble just to put a little asterisk up her [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

UN Memorial Service

The U. S. delegation holds a memorial service for President Kennedy at its office near UN headquarters today on the third anniversary of his assassination. Members of the U. S. Permanent Mission and General Assembly delegation will attend.

it. He finally took that part and rewrote it himself."

The final version said "the commission has found no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign."

Russell said he also objected that the Soviet Union's report on Oswald's stay in Russia was insufficient, that not all the facts about Oswald's Cuba-related activities were brought out; and that the testimony of Oswald's widow, Marina, was dubious.

'Can You Answer Them?'

"I'm the only man who bucked the report. I told them, 'I'm not going to sign it as long as it's this way,'" said Russell, adding that President Johnson had appointed him to the seven-man commission over his protests.

Why did Russell sign the report, despite what he called his "lingering dissatisfaction"?

Any group of honorable men, said Russell, would have come to the same conclusion the commission did, given the same evidence.

He also answered the ques-

tion indirectly, in a comment on the recent criticism in books and magazines. "You can raise questions—yes," Russell said. "The test is, can you answer them?"

Long, the Senate's assistant majority leader, said in New Orleans that he doesn't doubt Oswald played a part in the assassination. But, he said, "Whoever fired that second shot was a much better shot than Oswald."

Kilduff added some details to the story he confirmed yesterday—that there was friction between the Kennedy and Johnson factions aboard the plane carrying Kennedy's body back to Washington from Dallas.

He said Johnson was blocked in an attempt to accompany Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy from the plane as her husband's casket was being brought out at Andrews AFB. Instead of steps, said Kilduff, a forklift was set up and was immediately filled by Kennedy staff people and Secret Service agents, while the new President could not reach Mrs. Kennedy.

Editorial: Three Years After Dallas, Page 40.

Pete Hamill: Kennedy, Page 41.

Drew Pearson: Why Warren Served, Page 38.

Texas Gov. Connally in rejecting the theory that a single bullet struck both Kennedy and Connally before a second bullet killed Kennedy.

The Georgia veteran described Connally as "a deer hunter" who is familiar with rifles, and reportedly said he himself had disagreed "from the outset" with the single-bullet theory.

Schlesinger Asks Inquiry

Despite this, he said, any honorable group given the same evidence would have reached the same conclusions as the

Russell's dissent followed a similar objection yesterday by former White House press officers Malcolm Kilduff, who was in the Dallas motorcade, and