Russell Criticizes JFK Report But He Supports Conclusions

ATLANTA, Nov. 21 (AP)—Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), a member of the Warren Commisison that investigated the assassination of John E. Kennedy, still is not satisfied fully with the findings. But neither does he join the ranks of recent critics.

"You can raise questions—yes. The test is, can you answer them?" Russell told an interviewer for the Atlanta Journal recently at his home in Winder, Ga.

Russell did not want to serve on the Commission and objected privately to Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court serving as chairman.

"I'm the only man that bucked the report," he told the Journal reporter. "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 in the final report. The Senator said he prepared dissents of three points.

Russell objected to the original wording that stated categorically there had been no conspiracy involved in the assassinaiton. He insisted the report should go no further than a finding that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded Gov. John B. Connally of Texas.

"Warren 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 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 it himself."

The final compromise on this point said the Commission found no evidence that Oswald or Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald, "was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign."

Russell, himself a lawyer and longtime Chairman of the Senate's Central Intelligence Agency Oversight Committee, said he was concerned about two points:

1. He did not feel assured that the Soviet Union had provided all the information available on Oswald's 1959-62 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 en route to Russia.

Russell disagreed from the outset with the theory that the first bullet fired in the Dallas assassination wounded Kennedy and then Connally. Russell said he agrees with Connally, "a deer hunter," in rejecting the one-bullet theory.

Russell Long Suspects There Were 2 Killers

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 21 (AP)—Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) said here today he has always thought that a second person was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Long, Assistant Senate Majority Leader, suggested that further investigation be undertaken.

The Senator said that although there is no doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald played a part in the assassination, "whoever fired that second shot was a much better shot than Oswald."