

# BEHIND THE MOVE TO REOPEN JFK CASE—

**T**HE SENATE is being asked to order a new look into the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The task would be given to the Select Committee on Intelligence Operations, under a resolution sponsored by Senator Richard S. Schweiker (Rep.), of Pennsylvania. He is a member of that Committee, headed by Senator Frank Church (Dem.), of Idaho, which is investigating the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator Schweiker told *U.S. News & World Report* he seeks a review of the Kennedy case because newly uncovered evidence has raised serious questions. From the Committee's investigations and from long-secret documents recently made public and his own research, the Senator says, "it now appears" that—

- Both the CIA and Federal Bureau of Investigation covered up evidence that could have affected the Warren Commission's findings that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed Mr. Kennedy.

- Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald soon after the Kennedy shooting, was an FBI informer—a fact brought to light only recently when a 1964 letter by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was obtained under the new Freedom of Information Act.

- Oswald himself may have had some "affiliation with an intelligence operation"—as indicated by his background and the strange way "he was favored in every step" as he defected to Russia and was later restored to full U.S. citizenship.

- Former CIA Director Allen Dulles withheld from the Warren Commission information about CIA plots to kill Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro—which could have provided a motive for retaliation by Castro against Mr. Kennedy.

- Several key witnesses before the Warren Commission changed their testimony under urging by the FBI.

- The FBI destroyed a letter which Oswald delivered personally to its Dallas office several weeks before the Kennedy shooting. The letter warned an FBI agent to quit interviewing Mrs. Oswald. The destruction of this letter was first reported by the *Dallas Times Herald* then confirmed on August 30 by FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, who also said Oswald's visit was never reported to the Warren Commission.

- The FBI suppressed a report that one of its agents told Dallas police after the shooting that the FBI had known Oswald could be a threat to President

Kennedy. This was reported by the *Houston Chronicle* September 1.

"Up until a few months ago," Senator Schweiker said, "I was one who believed the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald had acted alone. But all these new developments have caused me to question some of the Commission assumptions. I think there are certainly grounds for taking another look. To me, it's like a big, public boil that's going to burst."

The resolution that Senator Schweiker

Explaining his suspicions about Oswald, Mr. Schweiker cited this record: "As a Marine, he was stationed at a base in Japan where CIA special agents were trained. He applied for a 'hardship' discharge on account of his mother. But he went home to his mother for just a few days and then high-tailed it to Russia. He immediately got a passport to go there, then proceeded to renounce his citizenship. Yet, when he wanted to come back, we gave him back his passport and paid his fare home."

Senator Schweiker cited an Associated Press story of Sept. 9, 1963, quoting Castro as saying U.S. leaders would be in danger if they helped in any way to "eliminate Cuban leaders."

"My point is," the Senator said, "we were warned some weeks before Mr. Kennedy was killed on November 22



Senator Schweiker displays records of new evidence to support his proposal that a Senate intelligence committee take a fresh look into President Kennedy's assassination.

proposes would direct the Church Committee to investigate matters relating to the Kennedy assassination, including the possible involvement of Ruby and Oswald in intelligence activities and the way the FBI and CIA gathered and disclosed information for the Warren Commission.

It would also empower the Committee to demand documents which have never been made public. They have been stored in the National Archives, classified as secret, not to be made public for 75 years. Some of those documents have been declassified. But "if you look at the documents that have not been released," the Senator said, "you find that the overwhelming number of them concern the intelligence agencies—107 FBI and 23 CIA documents."

He asked: "Now, if Oswald didn't deal with intelligence people, why are these documents classified?"

that if we did not stop trying to kill Castro the Cubans would get even. But nobody paid any attention because nobody knew at that time that we were trying to kill Castro."

Senator Schweiker also cited a *Miami News* report, printed in 1967, that Miami police were told by an informer on Nov. 9, 1963, that a plan to kill the President was in the works—and a tape of that conversation was given to the Secret Service. Although the site of the killing was not named, the informer was quoted as giving an almost precise scenario for what happened at Dallas.

Senator Schweiker is not the first member of Congress to ask for a reopening of the Kennedy investigation. But his approach of using the Church Committee is new. Numerous Americans who long have doubted the Warren Commission conclusions will be watching what the Senate does with his idea. (END)