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(600) SEN. RUSSELL'S DISSENTS

(WITH KENNEDY ASSASSINATION BJT)

(ATLANTA, GA., NOV. 21 (AP))-SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., A MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, STILL IS NOT SATISFIED FULLY WITH THE FINDINGS. BUT NEITHER DOES HE JOIN THE RANKS OR RECENT CRITICIS.

"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 TO THREE POINTS.

RUSSELL OBJECTED TO THE ORIGINAL WORDING THAT STATED CATEGORICALLY THERE HAD BEEN NO CONSPIRACY INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION. 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 WOULD B'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.'"

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"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 (CIA) 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. THE SENATOR ALSO HAD STRONG CRITICISM FOR THE QUESTIONING OF MOST WITNESSES BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

HIS OWN INTERROGATION OF OSWALD'S WIDOW BROUGHT OUT THE TESTIMONY FROM HER THAT SHE BELIEVED HER HUSBAND WAS TRYING TO SHOOT CONNALLY AND NOT THE PRESIDENT. PRESSED, SHE SAID: "I HAVE NO FACTS WHATSOEVER. I SIMPLY EXPRESS AN OPINION, WHICH PERHAPS IS NOT LOGICAL AT ALL."

RUSSELL TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARD THAT HE WAS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE VALUE OF MRS. OSWALD'S TESTIMONY.

THE GEORGIA SENATOR SAID HE APPEALED TO PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON TO BE KEPT OFF THE COMMISSION BUT WAS APPOINTED ANYWAY. RUSSELL SAID HE ADVISED THE PRESIDENT AGAINST NAMING WARREN AS CHAIRMAN BECAUSE THE SLAYING OF OSWALD WAS BOUND TO REACH THE SUPREME COURT ON AN APPEAL.

THE SENATOR DID NOT SAY SPECIFICALLY WHY HE OBJECTED TO SERVING ON THE COMMISSION. BUT THE HEARINGS CAME AT THE SAME TIME RUSSELL WAS LEADING SENATE OPPOSITION TO THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS BILL. "I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HELL-HACKED AND HARASSED," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND COMMISSION HEARINGS AS MUCH AS THE OTHER MEMBERS.

RUSSELL SAID, HOWEVER, DESPITE HIS OWN LINGERING DISSATISFACTION, THAT ANY GROUP OF HONORABLE MEN, GIVEN THE SAME EVIDENCE, WOULD HAVE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSIONS AS THE WARREN COMMISSION DID.

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