

Panel Studies F.B.I. Links To Oswald and Ruby in '63

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—A House of Representatives subcommittee has opened an investigation into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby before President Kennedy's assassination, the subcommittee's chairman said today.

This is the first official public inquiry by Congress into whether evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission since its report saying that Oswald was the sole assassin was issued in 1964.

Representative Don Edwards, chairman of the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, said that the purpose of his panel's investigation "is not to reopen the Warren Commission, others may later decide to do that, but to set the record straight on just what went on."

The California Democrat said that several recent disclosures about the F.B.I.'s role before the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, had convinced members of the subcommittee that the matter required its scrutiny.

Mr. Edwards' subcommittee has

oversight responsibilities for the F.B.I. and has been conducting a long-term investigation into the bureau's operations.

He said that the subcommittee had scheduled public hearings for next Monday and Tuesday and had asked senior F.B.I. officials to testify under oath. It may later subpoena F.B.I. field agents involved in various phases of the case, he added.

He said that the committee would concentrate on the following three main areas in its initial investigation:

¶The disclosure that the F.B.I., presumably on orders from its then director, J. Edgar Hoover, destroyed a letter written by Oswald several days before the assassination in which he threatened to "blow up" a Dallas police station unless the bureau's agents stopped trying to interview him.

¶Recently uncovered documents that indicated that Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald in the Dallas police headquarters, was a paid informant for the F.B.I.

¶The charge by William Wal-

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ter, a former code clerk in the New Orleans F.B.I. field office, that the bureau warned its Southern field offices five days before President Kennedy's death that there would be an assassination attempt with a rifle in Dallas.

The House committee's investigation is only one of several reappraisals of Kennedy assassination evidence. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence appointed two of its members, Senators Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Gary Hart, Democrat of Colorado, to be an informal subcommittee and screen possible new evidence.

A Broader Inquiry

The Senate committee has a broader mandate than does Mr. Edwards's panel. It can gather evidence on the Central Intelligence Agency's activities as well as F.B.I. materials. Based upon what Mr. Schweiker already learned as a member of the intelligence committee, he called last month for the Warren Commission's inquiry to be reopened.

Among the matters believed to warrant re-examination was the disclosure that the C.I.A. had never told the Warren Commission that it was involved in attempts to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. Considering Oswald's deep involvement with pro-Cuban elements, Mr. Schweiker has said that it would appear this information might be pertinent to the Warren inquiry.

The events surrounding the destruction of the Oswald letter by the F.B.I. are under investigation both within the bureau and by the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Though the Oswald letter was delivered to the F.B.I. before President Kennedy was shot, law enforcement sources have said, the bureau apparently did not tell anyone about the threat.

After the President was killed, the Oswald letter was removed from the file and destroyed. Several sources have said that the destruction may have been on Mr. Hoover's orders, but this is still under investigation.

Despite the threat contained in the letter, both Mr. Hoover and James P. Hosty Jr., the special agent who was investigating Oswald at the time, told the Warren Commission that they had no reason, before the Kennedy shooting to believe that Oswald was capable of violence.