

Watergate Spotlights 5 JFK

WASHINGTON — As the 10th anniversary of John Kennedy's assassination approaches, an odd twist of fate finds some of the same characters spotlighted in a new presidential trauma.

Five highly placed lawyers who figured in the investigation of Kennedy's death are now prominent in the Watergate crisis.

They are Vice President-designate Gerald Ford, Bernard Fensterwald Jr., special prosecutor Leon Jaworski, Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell and U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

TO THIS day, wrangling persists over the findings of the Warren Commission which investigated the Kennedy crime. A two-day conference at Georgetown University late this month will advance the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a "conspiracy."

Watergate likewise can be expected to stir argument for years to come, and both episodes have profoundly affected the lives of those in-

olved.

Ford served on the Warren Commission and wrote a book about its findings. In that era his name was far from a household word as politician or author.

Little did he dream that 10 years later a Republican White House would be shattered, not by an assassin's rifle, but by scandal, propelling him to the threshold of the Oval office.

Of the Kennedy assassination, Ford said "Seldon has a crime appeared to be more complicated and mysterious. Never has a crime been so thoroughly investigated."

Bernard Fensterwald disagrees. The Warren Commission probe could have been more thorough, he said.

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ing that President Lyndon Johnson and commission member Richard Russell disagreed with the findings. He believes Oswald had accomplices.

FENSTERWALD is best known as Watergate burglar James W. McCord's lawyer and an experienced congressional investigator. He is credited with advising McCord to write the letter involving higher-ups which broke the case wide open.

Long before he ever met McCord, Fensterwald was devoting time and money to digging up more evidence on the Kennedy assassination.

Photographs and x-rays of the JFK autopsy, as well as evidence, have never made public, Fensterwald said.

He believes Watergate has set him back. "If what we suspect is true, that the murder of JFK has been covered up, the trauma would make Watergate look like a Sunday school picnic. Nobody wants to open up another trauma," he said.

Almost forgotten now are the roles played by Leon Jaworski and Lewis Powell 10 years ago. They, too, worked with the Warren Commission.

Jaworski, a respected Texas lawyer, served as special counsel for the state authorities. Powell was named by the American Bar Association to represent Oswald's interests.

On the Supreme Court, Powell and his fellow justices may eventually rule on release of the secret Kennedy evidence that Fensterwald has been trying to pry from the federal archives.

JUDGE SIRICA of Watergate fame has already ruled once, denying Fensterwald's plea for evidence the FBI withheld from the Warren

Probe Figures

Commission.

The analyses of bullets and fragments fired in Dallas would show whether all came from a single weapon, again possibly revealing accomplices.

Judge Sirica's negative ruling was reversed on appeal, and the case may go to the Supreme Court.

"One of the puzzling things," Fensterwald said, "is the way the Kennedy family has shied away from us. I thought Bobby would have

gone to the ends of the earth to track down his brother's killer, but he didn't."

About 100 people in the United States — pathologists, researchers, and lawyers — are working with Fensterwald. At one time a poll showed two-thirds of the American people didn't believe Oswald acted alone.

But after Watergate, the mood of the country doesn't seem encouraging for boat-rockers.