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# Hart to Request Congress Reopen JFK Death Probe

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WASHINGTON—Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., said Saturday he will ask for a congressional reopening of the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On the basis of leads and new evidence developed by a subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Hart said, he will urge that two "theories" of the 1963 presidential assassination in Dallas be explored:

—That Lee Harvey Oswald was an agent of a "rogue elephant-type" Cuban intelligence organization that sought to retaliate against President Kennedy for the attempts that had been made against the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

—That Oswald was an agent for militant, right-wing Cuban exiles angry with Kennedy for pledging after the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion that the United States would not permit further strikes against Castro's Cuba.

INFORMATION EXISTS, some of it still tightly held by the CIA and the FBI, which justifies a further probe into why Kennedy was slain, Hart said, emphasizing that the renewed investigation should concentrate on motives, not on the clear evidence that Oswald himself was the killer.

Hart, with Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., served on the subcommittee of the Senate intelligence panel which inquired into the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies—primarily the FBI and the CIA—in aiding the Warren Commission in its 1971 investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

While he was "reluctant" in accepting that subcommittee assignment and fearful of "fanning the flames" of the Kennedy assassination aftermath, Hart said, he is convinced a further investigation is

necessary.

"I don't think you can see the things I have seen and sit on it," Hart said. "Knowing what I know, I can't walk away from it."

"This subject continues to plague the American people. It's a curse . . ."

HART SAID HE AND Schweiker three weeks ago submitted a "preliminary"

report to the full Select Intelligence Committee on their findings.

He said they would urge the full committee to request Senate approval for reopening of the Kennedy assassination investigation, not with another "blue ribbon" commission similar to the Warren Commission but through existing Senate committees and subcommittees.

He expects, Hart said, that the majority of the Select Committee will support that request, especially "those who have read our report and believe like we do that we can't walk away from it."

The main thrust of the new probe of the Kennedy assassination, Hart said, should be aimed at learning "who Oswald really was—who did he know? What affiliation did he have in the Cuban network? Was his public identification with the left wing a cover for a connection with the anti-Castro right wing?"

The effort should be made, Hart said, to "track Oswald down on a day-by-day basis" during the months and years prior to Nov. 22, 1963, when the former U.S.

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and onetime exile to the Soviet killed Kennedy in Dallas.

who said he "leans" to the theory Oswald might have been an oper-

ative for right-wing anti-Castroites, said both the FBI and the CIA had failed to adequately explore Oswald's possible connections with Cuban dissidents or with Castro supporters.

"I think I'd rate both performances at-

about C-minus," Hart said.

PARTIALLY OVERLOOKED or disregarded in the Warren Commission probe, Hart said, was the "ferment, the intrigue, the plotting" and the occasional violence of the Cuban exile community in this country from the time of Castro's take-over in 1960 to the time of the Kennedy assassination.

While he wouldn't say the Hart-Schweiker subcommittee uncovered "hard evidence" of links between Oswald and militant anti-Castro elements in this country, Hart said, "at least we've found circumstantial evidence."

Hart cautioned that he wasn't suggesting there was any suspicion that intelligence agencies of this country were involved in the Kennedy assassination, as has been charged by leftist authors and commentators.

Any domestic coverups or investigative failures, he said, were the results of the agencies trying to protect themselves against criticisms for actions or failures to act.

For example, Hart said, the CIA made no effort to furnish the Warren Commission with the "startling" information that the agency, even cooperating with Mafia elements, was involved in plots and attempts against Castro's life.

PORTIONS OF THE FBI investigation were muddled, Hart said, and J. Edgar Hoover, then FBI director, "was swept up with the predisposition of the Johnson administration to come up with an answer and come up with it quickly."

He believes, Hart said, that "a conscious decision was made by individuals to withhold evidence from the Warren Commission."

Those individuals, he said, would include Hoover, John McCone, then direc-

tor of the CIA, and "second-level officials of both agencies who felt the less complex the investigation, the better it would be."

Discussing his own inclination to "lean" to the theory that Oswald might have been an agent for right-wing Cuban dissidents, Hart said there is "circumstantial" evidence he was acquainted with two men in New Orleans, La., both of them with "ties" to the militant anti-Castro community.

He believed, Hart said, that Oswald — pictured by the Warren Commission as a

leftist and acting alone in the Kennedy assassination — was "sophisticated" enough to have operated as a "double agent," a man posing as a Castro supporter but actually acting as an anti-Castro militant.

Hart acknowledged that he had reversed his view, expressed last October, that the subcommittee on which he and Schweiker served should be involved in a "reopening" of the Warren Commission investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

IN URGING THAT the assassination

probe actually be reopened by a Senate panel — retaining the staff which has worked for the subcommittee — Hart said the work should be done "as quietly and as discreetly as possible."

"I don't think the American people need more idle, random speculation by public officials," Hart said. "These questions can't be answered by reopening public wounds."

He added that any effort to "capitalize" on the Kennedy assassination and the possible reopening of the investigation by politicians would be "deplorable."