

JFK Book Irks Aide Of Warren

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It's "open season" on the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's death and on the men who worked on the document, according to a high official who is seemingly irked by a policy of silence laid down by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The official today asked not to be identified because the men who worked on the Warren Commission report have voluntarily followed the chief justice's policy in not publicly commenting on any criticisms directed toward themselves or the findings in the massive document.

But this official feels strongly that many of the statements contained in excerpted articles from William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," are not based on facts but on pure speculation.

"There are a lot of odd things said in those articles," he said, adding, "I don't know—maybe that's the modern way of writing history."

In addition to finding fault with some material he found in Manchester's articles, the official also spoke up about public statements made by the author and others in connection with the events surrounding the investigations of Pres. Kennedy's death.

"People can say just about what they please knowing they will not be contradicted," said the official.

CITES STATEMENT

To point up his remarks, the source cited a statement made by Manchester on last Sunday's hour-long "Meet the Press" NBC telecast.

Asked whether he believed that in view of possible inadequacies in the findings of the Warren report, the inquiry should be reopened, Manchester replied, "no."

Manchester went on to say:

"I was a privileged observer of the Warren Commission hearings at the invitation of the chief justice. I read the testimony, depositions, saw the exhibits as they came in. He (Earl Warren) asked me to read the report in behalf of the family and state it was acceptable to the Kennedy's. I declined because my own inquiry was incomplete and unlike Mr. Mark Lane I was unwilling to rush to judgement in 1964."

The official said that in his opinion it was "highly unlikely that Chief Justice Warren would have asked Manchester to read the report (by inference before it was released) and comment on it."

"I worked intimately for one year with the chief justice—such a thing would be completely out-of-character for him. He just wouldn't do it."

EMPHASIZES DISBELIEF

"Also, I am sure that if by a remote possibility he (Warren) had made such a request, I would have known about it. He would have consulted me."

The official again emphasized his disbelief of Manchester's claim by saying "the chief justice does not operate that way."

In Washington, a spokesman for Warren, when asked for a statement on Manchester's remark, said:

"The chief justice has given instructions that he refuses ever to comment in any way about the report or answer any questions relating to it. His instructions to any questions concerning the matter is at all times, 'no comment.'"