

understand - record from writer who lives in New York N.Y.

Johnson deleted comment on Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Johnson got CBS Chairman William Paley to delete from a televised interview his remarks questioning the Warren Commission's conclusions on the assassination of President Kennedy, former chairman Walter Cronkite says.

The commission concluded that Kennedy was killed by one gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald. Cronkite said Wednesday that Johnson commented on that finding during an interview in 1970, the year after he left office, for a television series on his memoirs.

"He said he'd never been sure the Warren Commission was right, that he'd always thought there was a possibility of a conspiracy in Kennedy's death," Cronkite said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "He indicated he thought it was international, but he wouldn't go into it."

"He seemed to be a little embarrassed about having brought it up, as if he didn't have anything to back it up," Cronkite said.

Under an agreement between Johnson and CBS News, he was given an audio tape of the interview and had 24 hours to have any remark deleted from the broadcast.

Johnson registered no objection to his Warren Commission remarks and CBS News planned to air them, Cronkite said. When Johnson sought their deletion several weeks later, he was told the objection had come too late. Johnson appealed to Paley, who overruled Cronkite and the producers, Cronkite said.

FBI questions mystery 'tramps' in JFK assassination

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — The FBI has tracked down and questioned two of three "railroad tramps" taken into custody after President Kennedy's assassination but learned nothing new from their effort.

"Since they had not been interviewed by the FBI, I wanted to complete the record," Oliver B. Revell, agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, said yesterday.

The agency also wants to take another look at an 8-millimeter film taken shortly before the fatal shots were fired at Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, he said.

"We're not reopening the Kennedy investigation per se," Revell said. "The broad-based freewheeling investigation has been closed, but, as always, any new information has been checked out."

Recently rediscovered arrest reports led the FBI to the "tramps," remembered from a widely circulated photo that shows them being arrested near the assassination site.

Skeptics have long wondered why vagrants on railroad cars would have fresh haircuts and recently shined shoes.

The disappearance of the arrest reports was noted in the movie "JFK" as part of the evidence supporting theories of a conspiracy and government coverup.

Revell said recent interviews with John Forrest Gedyney, who now lives in Melbourne, Fla., and Harold Doyle, who lives in Klamath Falls, Ore., produced no new information. The third man, Gus W. Abrams, is dead, he said.

"They both said they had been at the mission, they had gotten some food and gotten cleaned up and were wandering back toward the railroad yard," Revell said.

Arrest reports indicated the three were detained for four days on vagrancy charges, but they had been released by the time the film was shot.

The film shows the sixth-floor windows of the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building, where Lee Harvey Oswald was said to have fired the shots that killed Kennedy. The FBI wants to submit it to enhanced photo analysis techniques unavailable 28 years ago. The film's existence has been known for years. It is not to be confused with the famous Zapruder film, which shows the actual shooting, not just the shooting scene shortly beforehand.

There are a number of other things that are being looked into, Revell said.

The official Warren Commission investigation concluded that Oswald acted alone when he shot Kennedy.