

Monday, July 21, 1975

Nixon Knowledge Of CIA Plots Not Ruled Out By Panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate committee investigating Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hasn't ruled out the possibility that former President Nixon may have known about political assassination plots in Greece and Chile, a member of the panel said Sunday.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), also said the investigation could lead to a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Schweiker, in a television interview, said "There's a question of calling Nixon (to testify) for several things. Chile would be one, Greece would be another... We haven't ruled that out and that is a line of investigation..." he said.

On the Kennedy assassination, Schweiker said a fatal flaw of the Warren Commission report was that it made no reference to a number of attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro prior to Kennedy's death.

THE WARREN Commission, he said, did not know of these attempts, which, together with a warning to U.S. leaders by Castro 2½ months before Kennedy was killed and Lee Harvey Oswald's contacts with Cubans, lead him to believe that "one of the spinoffs of our investigation could well be to reopen the Warren Commission investigation."

He said there was no doubt that there were attempts on Castro's life at the time from the United States "with governmental backing" and these provide "the motivational factor" for Kennedy's assassination.

He also said, however, that he had no hard evidence and that his comments were not expressing the view of the committee but were his own.

Schweiker also said that Presidents Johnson, Kennedy and Eisenhower knew of assassination plots.

Friday, committee chairman Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said that there was no direct evidence linking Presidents to assassination attempts.

Schweiker, however, said that there also is no direct evidence exonerating Presidents of assassination attempts.

"In my own opinion, it's hard for me to conceive that someone higher up didn't know... if they didn't know they should have known," he said.