

Assassination Probers Name Rankin Counsel

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG

Star Staff Writer

The presidential commission investigating the assassination of the late President Kennedy today named J. Lee Rankin, former Solicitor General of the United States, to serve as the commission's general counsel.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, in announcing the appointment,

Piece of Oswald's Shirt Found Snagged in Rifle. Page A-4.

said the 56-year-old attorney has accepted and "is now in the performance of his duties".

The Chief Justice, who is chairman of the seven-man commission, did not spell out Mr. Rankin's duties but presumably his role will center on collecting investigative materials from all sources and presenting it to the commission for its evaluation.

The first investigative report is now in the hands of the commission.

Five Volumes

Chief Justice Warren said "a summary of the FBI report" was delivered to the commission late yesterday. He described it as "five volumes of summary and exhibits."

"No further announcement will be made concerning the report until the commission,



J. LEE RANKIN

has had an opportunity to review it," the Chief Justice said. "A preliminary statement will thereafter be made public."

It had been assumed that the commission, which has already held two meetings, would get together again as soon as it receives the bulky FBI report. Chief Justice Warren said, however, that the date of the next meeting has not been determined.

Wide Experience

Mr. Rankin, a Republican, is now practicing law in New York. He has had wide experi-

See RANKIN, Page A-4

RANKIN

Continued From Page A-1

ence both in private practice and in the Federal service.

Born in Hartington, Nebr., on July 8, 1907, he practiced law in Lincoln, Nebr., from 1931 to 1953. He was one of the first Assistant Attorney Generals selected by Attorney General Herbert Brownell when he took office in January, 1953.

Mr. Rankin, as head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, held the key assignment of advising the President on the preparation of proclamations and executive orders.

He was named Solicitor General in 1956, a post in which he represented the Government in all Supreme Court cases involving Federal interests. He returned to private law practice in January, 1961.

During his Justice Department service, he was active in the administration's legal battles for school desegregation and presented the Government's argument in the basic case that led to the Supreme Court ruling against segregation.