

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

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Net paid circulation for the six months ended March 31, 1976

DAILY 375,100 SUNDAY 450,657

As filed with the Audit Bureau of Circulations, subject to audit

SECTION ONE—26 Cleveland, Ohio Sunday, June 27, 1976

New JFK probe needed

The final report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities with its finding that the CIA withheld information surely relevant to the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination adds weight to the argument that a new high-level inquiry into Kennedy's death is needed.

In its 106-page report addressing the performance of federal intelligence agencies, foreign and domestic, with respect to the Kennedy assassination, the committee disclosed that the CIA apparently ignored the possibility of a connection between its efforts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Kennedy's subsequent murder.

Not did the CIA inform the Warren Commission of its sponsorship of several abortive assassination plots against Castro, including one that was in progress when the President was killed.

Particularly disturbing are the indications that Castro knew of CIA plots against him and had privately warned that U.S. leaders might find themselves in jeopardy.

The Senate committee was careful to note that none of this new

information is, in itself, sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

We agree. But the new revelations raise disturbing questions about the adequacy of the official Warren Commission investigation. If the investigation was inadequate and substantial new information is now available, there is at least the possibility that a fresh official investigation might ultimately arrive at a conclusion different from the one proposed by the Warren Commission.

Moreover, a thorough re-examination of the Kennedy assassination, providing it were respectfully conducted, would help allay the pervasive public impression that the full truth about the assassination has never been revealed.

The report concludes by recommending a follow-up investigation of Kennedy's assassination by a newly formed Senate Intelligence Committee. That is a serious worth considering, but the idea might be a new probe conducted jointly by representatives of Congress and the executive branch including the Department of Justice and the intelligence community.

MY ANSWER

Inside JFK probe no place for CIA

In response to your June 27 editorial, "New JFK probe needed," I agree with the basic theme, that the investigation has to be reopened to solve the crime and end the public's gnawing doubts. However, you made a serious error that, if carried out, could jeopardize the entire reopening.

In the first paragraph the editorial stated "the CIA withheld information surely relevant to the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination." Then, in the last paragraph, the editorial reversed itself, saying, "A better idea might be a new probe conducted jointly by representatives of Congress and the executive branch including the Department of Justice and the intelligence community."

community" (emphasis mine). My dear sirs, the "intelligence community's" lack of disclosure is the subject of the entire editorial!

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities did not have to ask the CIA to investigate itself and report back — which is what will happen if your words are carried out. It had its own staff, it issued subpoenas, it took testimony, it granted immunity.

There is no reason the CIA will rush in and volunteer its best services to solve the crime when its former director, John DeLoach, sat on the Warren Commission for 16 months and never spoke up about the agency's efforts to kill Fidel Castro. The CIA should be added here.

John Kennedy for the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion. He was later appointed to the Warren Commission by Lyndon Johnson to tell us all the truth about John Kennedy's assassination.

This murder can be cracked in Congress — if only it acts, and goes into it right. The evidence that was ignored must now be examined. The witnesses who were not called must now be heard from. The mistakes made in the past must guide the investigations of the future lest it be done again, and we will all be asking,

Who killed JFK?