

—Probe JFK-Cuban link, Schweiker tells panel—

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new Senate intelligence committee should investigate the "real possibility" that the White House took part in a cover-up of Cuban links to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker says.

Schweiker headed a subcommittee of the now disbanded Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that probed the official investigation of the 1963 Kennedy assassination. Last Wednesday the panel concluded that the CIA and FBI withheld information from the Warren Commission and failed to pursue several leads.

"I think, frankly, the real possibility exists that the White House was part of that coverup," Schweiker said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"I think there are several people in Lyndon Johnson's White House circle that we probably should now question, that weren't questioned," he said.

The Pennsylvania Republican said "several high officials" have told him that they believe Cuban Premier Fidel Castro ordered the assassination because of CIA attempts against his life.

Schweiker said the unnamed officials told him that "the White House feared a nuclear confrontation

with Russia ... because they thought if it became known at that time, people would clamor for an invasion of Cuba with Russia supporting Cuba; and that to avert nuclear war, their information says it was covered up."

Schweiker is pressing for the new, permanent Senate intelligence committee to pursue several leads into the Kennedy assassination. One lead "would involve a pro-Castro conspiracy. Another would involve anti-Castro Cubans," he said.

Schweiker said he has "never made a judgment" on whether Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of Kennedy, as the Warren Commission said.

Schweiker said it was time to make public all facts in the case.

"It's time this government stopped playing deadly games with people's lives. I think the public has a right to know," Schweiker said. "I think we ought to be forewarned about what some of our leaders and government groups do."

He added that it is "very much a matter of public business when 210 million people can be risked because somebody's playing deadly assassination games. That's the way World War I began."