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Schweiker urges JFK death probe

Associated Press *Inquiries*

WASHINGTON — Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.) said yesterday that he had turned up "some very hot leads" that could answer for certain who had killed President John F. Kennedy.

Schweiker, a member of a two-man Senate intelligence subcommittee, refused to describe the leads except to say that he had turned up "significant new material about defects and deficiencies" in the original investigation conducted by the CIA and FBI.

Appearing on the "CBS Morning News," Schweiker called some of the defects "deliberate" and added, "There is no question in my mind" that the two agencies had lied to the Warren Commission, the panel that had officially investigated the assassination.

Asked whether he had any new evidence about the assassination itself, Schweiker replied, "The answer is no," explaining that his subcommittee's investigation was concerned only with the performance of the intelligence agencies.

"But," Schweiker added, "if we pursue some very hot leads that we have . . . we well may answer that question."

The answer to "the riddle of the Kennedy assassination" lies in Lee

Harvey Oswald's contacts with both pro-Castro and anti-Castro factions, Schweiker asserted, in reference to Fidel Castro, prime minister of Cuba.

The senator disagreed with fellow subcommittee member Gary Hart (D., Colo.), who said Thursday that he had seen no evidence to discredit the Warren report's central finding, which was that Oswald had been the sole assassin.

Defects in the investigation necessarily invalidate the conclusion, Schweiker insisted.

In a separate interview, Schweiker said, "I have always questioned the Warren Commission finding about who did it and how it was done. My six months on this subcommittee reinforce and strengthen those doubts."

Pressed for specifics, Schweiker noted — as he has before — the CIA's failure to inform the Warren Commission about its schemes to kill Castro and the FBI's destruction of a threatening note delivered by Oswald to bureau offices in Dallas just days before the November 22, 1963, assassination.

Schweiker and Hart are expected to deliver written reports on their findings to the full Senate Select Committee on Intelligence by the end of May. After an oral briefing Thursday, the committee voted without objection to recommend that the investigation be continued by a proposed Senate intelligence oversight panel.

The Senate is expected to vote next week on a resolution to create the oversight committee. However, backers believe that they will have to muster at least 60 votes to be able to invoke the Senate's debate-limiting cloture rule against several members of the Armed Services Committee, which now oversees most intelligence activities.