

Senator asks renewal of JFK death probe

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Washington—A call for the reopening of the Warren Commission investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy on the theory that it might have been a Cuban revenge for American attempts on the life of premier Fidel Castro came yesterday from Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.)

Mr. Schweiker, interviewed on CBS's Face the Nation, said "without any doubt" plans to kill Mr. Castro had governmental backing in the United States. And he cited a Castro speech, made two months before President Kennedy was shot, in which the Cuban prime minister warned that American leaders involved in such plots would themselves be in danger.

Senator Schweiker, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the special intelligence committee now probing the operations of the espionage community, contended that there was "a fatal flaw" in the Warren Commission report because it contained no references to Central Intelligence Agency plots against Mr. Castro.

"The Warren Commission, of which Allen Dulles, then director of the CIA, was a member, evaded that key question of political motivation," the senator asserted.

He conceded that this was his theory, and had not been developed from evidence acquired by the intelligence committee's inquiries, which in past weeks have focused on political assassination plots involving the CIA.

Senator Schweiker took issue with Senator Frank Church (D., Idaho), the chairman of the intelligence committee, over the question of whether the CIA was operating, as Mr. Church said, "like a rogue elephant out of control" of either the President or Congress in its covert operations.

He contended that the CIA

was "the President's secret army abroad and his secret police at home." And he emphasized that, although no direct evidence had pointed to the involvement of presidents in assassination plans, there also had been no evidence to exonerate them.

According to Senator Schweiker, the CIA "very strongly maintained" that its authority in covert operations such as assassination plots came from the White House.

The committee, said Senator Schweiker, repeatedly had found that documents had been erased or destroyed in what he described as "this murky area." Such erasures, he said, had led him to the conclusion that if coverup procedures were so routine, it raised the question of who was covering up for whom.

"If the President didn't know what the CIA was up to, See CIA, A4, Col. 5



MR. SCHWEICKER AP

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CIA, from AI he should have known," he declared.

The senator said that the intelligence committee was probing the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations with regard to assassination plots.

Although Senator Church has indicated that former President Nixon will not be called to testify regarding political assassinations, Senator Schweiker refused to rule out interrogations of Mr. Nixon in that area, especially in relation to CIA involvement in Chile.

The former President, he said, certainly would be asked about his involvement in illegal domestic activities by the CIA, such as Operation Chaos, in

which the intelligence agency kept files on Americans, and the so-called Huston plan in which the Nixon administration called on the CIA to participate illegally in domestic surveillance schemes.

The forthcoming Senate committee report on political assassinations, the senator said, would show that political assassination was an instrument of American foreign policy, which he termed "a heavy blow to national self-esteem."

Asked if the report would show that there were in fact successful assassinations by the CIA, the senator replied, "In my judgment, the CIA was involved in assassination plots and indirectly involved in assassinations."