

Oswald Viewed as Double Agent

Washington—Each morning when Sen. Dick Schweiker leaves his suburban home, he's quickly immersed in the world of Lee Harvey Oswald—a blasted landscape full of dead men and living riddles.

Who was Oswald? Did he act alone when (and if) he shot John F. Kennedy? If not, who were his co-conspirators?

Those tattered questions have fueled tons of books and rivers of talk shows for 12 years. But Pennsylvania's Schweiker has a powerful weapon to be envied by the army of assassination buffs. As a two-man subcommittee with Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo) to probe the FBI and CIA roles in the Warren Commission,

Schweiker has subpoena power to dig up documents and question witnesses.

Three months into his homework, Dick Schweiker said yesterday he's leaning strongly toward a conspiratorial theory—that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for an intelligence agency when Jack Kennedy was shot.

Smooth Operator

"I'm positively convinced there's something there," Schweiker said in an interview. "Oswald had an intelligence connection. He could have been a double agent. Those are the hardest guys to figure out. Which side are they on? And Oswald—unlike the way



Sandy Grady
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he was pictured to the Warren Commission—was a very smooth operator."

Oswald's behavior in New Orleans and Mexico City in the months preceding Kennedy's shooting intrigue Schweiker.

"Here was a fellow handing out pro-Castro leaflets on the New Or-

leans streets," said Schweiker, "but he was also active with the anti-Castro groups. Something when he went to Mexico. He was involved with both sides. Yet he was also close to David Ferrie, a pilot with CIA connections." (Ferie, who flew leaflet missions over Cuba, died under mysterious circumstances while being investigated for a JFK murder plot.)

Schweiker doesn't flinch from the possibility that Oswald was involved in a plot against President Kennedy, although the evidence is far from conclusive.

Feelings Run High

"You have to remember that feelings were running very high," said Schweiker. "After the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy had sworn to shake up the agency. But the CIA was still planning other invasions of Cuba. On one occasion, the FBI raided a CIA training camp at Lake Ponchartraine, La. You had an undercover war between different agencies. And here you have Oswald who had so many roles—he'd been in Russia, married a KGB colonel's daughter, had associations with the FBI and CIA, and was also connected to right-wing groups and the Cubans. He could have been a double, even a triple agent."

Schweiker is only sure of one thing—the Warren Commission failed to explore Lee Harvey Oswald's tangled connections with the FBI, CIA and foreign spy outfits.

"First, the Warren Commission's big loophole was its dependence on the FBI to do its investigating," said Schweiker. "J. Edgar Hoover had put out his own report 30 days after Kennedy's death, and that was it. The

been shocked by the "anything goes" attitude of the FBI under Hoover. Second, the Warren Commission, for reasons I don't understand, rushed to finish its work before the 1964 elections. Third, the Warren Commission knew nothing about the so-called "Cuban Connection." Allen Dulles, an ex-CIA director, was on the panel but he didn't reveal the plots to kill Castro. So they never checked closely into Oswald's background with the Cubans or U.S. agencies.

Fresh Angle Needed

Schweiker wants the JFK case re-opened with a congressional investigation. But despite the public opinion about the Warren report, he knows he needs a bombshell to shake the Senate into action.

"We'll need hard facts and a fresh angle to win a vote in the Senate, and we haven't got that yet," said Schweiker. "You see, the deeper you get into Oswald's past and the whole assassination puzzle, the more you realize we don't know the truth. I'll say this—given a full staff and six months, we could find the truth."

Jack Kennedy's murder is a traumatic riddle that nags the country's soul. Maybe Schweiker's spadework can impel the Senate's mossbacks to name a crack committee that would pursue the answers, whether the road leads to the CIA, or Fidel Castro, or Lee Harvey Oswald's mysterious psyche.

And they could do worse than putting this skeptical Dutchman, Dick Schweiker, in charge of the hunt.

(Sandy Grady's opinion column also appears Sunday and Tuesday.)