

Johnson Feared War At Kennedy Death, Earl Warren Says

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (UPI) —President Johnson was concerned in 1963 that the assassination of John F. Kennedy might lead to a nuclear war, according to former Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Mr. Warren, in an interview with the Public Broadcasting Service, said that Mr. Johnson had cited the possibility of war as one reason that the Chief Justice should head a commission he named to investigate President Kennedy's assassination.

The interview, conducted by Abram Sachar, Chancellor of Brandeis University, will be shown on television, including station WNET in New York, next Monday at 8 P.M.

Mr. Warren recalled that the incident occurred a few days after Mr. Kennedy's death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Mr. Warren said that he had advised the President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, he did not believe that a Chief Justice should undertake nonjudicial

duties while sitting on the Supreme Court.

But two hours later, he said in the interview, he was invited to the White House by Mr. Johnson who "told me he felt conditions around the world were so bad at the moment that he thought it might even get us into a war — a nuclear war."

The former Chief Justice said that the President's statement had caused him to agree to head the inquiry.

Mr. Johnson, according to Mr. Warren, cited rumors, later proved to be unfounded, that Soviet Premier Khrushchev and Cuba's Premier Castro might have been involved in the assassination.

Mr. Warren also related that Mr. Johnson said he had asked for a report from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara for an estimate on how many Americans would be killed in a Soviet nuclear attack. He said that Mr. Johnson had told him he was given a figure of 60 million.

Mr. Warren said that he had never seen any convincing evidence to disprove the Warren commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely responsible for assassinating Mr. Kennedy.