

McCloy Regrets One Aspect of Warren Inquiry

Wishes Panel Had Studied Photographs and X-Rays

By MARTIN GANSBERG

John J. McCloy, who was a member of the Warren Commission, feels that the commission should have studied the photographs and X-rays taken of President Kennedy after his assassination.

He says the panel did not do so because "we were perhaps a little oversensitive to what we understood were the sensitivities of the Kennedy family."

Mr. McCloy, lawyer and diplomat, nevertheless insists that the seven-man commission "had the best evidence — the pathology in respect to the President's wounds."

In his first public comment on the investigation made by the group under the direction of Chief Justice Earl Warren, Mr. McCloy also discounted what he called the "distorted charges of conspiracy on the part of [Lee Harvey] Oswald."

Final Program of Series

His comments were made Wednesday on the fourth and last program in a Columbia Broadcasting System series analyzing the Warren Report.

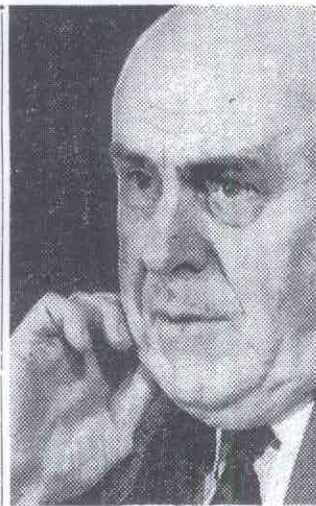
Despite its failure to study the photographs and X-rays, Mr. McCloy declared, the commission had "all the facilities we needed" and made its own choice not to subpoena the photographs, then in the hands of the Kennedy family. The photographs were given to the National Archives last year, with the stipulation they be locked away for five years.

To charges that the commission reached its conclusions too quickly, Mr. McCloy answered: "The conclusions weren't rushed at all. If there's any charge that can be made—and maybe this is an unjust charge, because I wasn't in charge of it—I'm inclined to think we perhaps rushed to print a little too soon."

He also disputed critics who have challenged the competency of the commission and the thoroughness of its investigation.

"There was nothing fraudulent; there was nothing sinister, either conscious or subconscious," he said. "I haven't seen any credible evidence which dispels the soundness of the fundamental conclusions that we came to."

The commission concluded that Oswald, acting alone, as-



United Press International
John J. McCloy

sassinated President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

In its inquiry into circumstances surrounding the investigation into President Kennedy's death, C.B.S. interviewed O. P. Wright, chief of security at Parkland Hospital, where the President was taken after the shooting, about failure of Federal law-enforcement men to do anything immediately about a bullet found there.

Mr. Wright said that for more than half an hour Secret Service men "didn't seem interested in coming in and looking at the bullet in the position it was in then." He said the bullet had dislodged, after a stretcher had been moved, and was lying on the floor.

His efforts to get a Federal agent to take the bullet finally led to a matter-of-fact acceptance without questioning or additional investigation, Mr. Wright said.

'Less Than Glorious'

In its concluding study, C.B.S. said that the work of Federal agents was "less than glorious" in the investigation after the assassination. "To some extent," the network said, "the performances of these agencies weakened the credibility of the Warren Report."

The commission, C.B.S. said, "seriously compromised itself" by allowing the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency to investigate questions involving their own actions.

The network cited, as an example, reports that Oswald had been working for one of the agencies, and said the commission accepted, without further investigation, the word of the

But He Supports Findings in Slaying of Kennedy

agency that this was not true.

As for the question of whether Americans could believe the Warren Report, C.B.S. interviewed Prof. Henry Steele Commager, the historian, who commented:

"There's been very little tendency of the American people to find conspiracy. But I do think that there has come up in recent years, particularly since the coming of the Cold War, something that might be called a conspiracy psychology—a feeling that great events can't be explained by ordinary processes."

Oakland Tribune
3 July 1967
Warren Probers 'Mistake'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — John J. McCloy, a member of the Warren Commission, says the panel should have insisted on seeing autopsy photographs and X-rays of President John F. Kennedy's body.

"We were perhaps a little oversensitive to what we understood was the sensitivities of the Kennedy family against the production of colored photographs of the body and so forth," McCloy said yesterday.

McCloy said the Warren Commission had the power to subpoena the films, but chose not to.

McCloy disclosed in a television interview that Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, discussed the photographs with the Kennedy family in the course of the inquiry.

"I thought that he was really going to see them, but it turned out that he hadn't," McCloy said. The Kennedy family subsequently turned the films over to the National Archives with strict provisions against their being viewed by the public.