

Rockefeller Unit Said to Check Report Of C.I.A. Link to Kennedy Assassination

By JOHN CREWSON

WASHINGTON — The Rockefeller commission on the Central Intelligence Agency is looking into allegations that the C.I.A. was somehow involved in the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, according to informed sources close to its investigation.

One focus of the commission's inquiry, the sources said, is the recent assertion of a group headed by Dick Gregory, the comedian and civil rights activist, that Howard Hunt Jr. was seized by the Dallas police near the Kennedy assassination site within minutes of the shooting.

Mr. Hunt, convicted two years ago of conspiring to carry out the Watergate hugging plot, was a clandestine political officer for the C.I.A. at the time President Kennedy was murdered.

The Gregory group's charge is founded on photographs published last year in underground newspapers and elsewhere purporting to show Mr. Hunt and Frank A. Sturgis, one of the convicted Watergate burglars, being brought to the scene of the assassination by a helicopter from the Texas State Penitentiary.

The Rockefeller commission reportedly denied that it was in Dallas on the night of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Sturgis reportedly was employed by the C.I.A. as an operative in the Miami area around the time of the agency-inspired Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

The school book depository was identified in the final report of the Warren Commission, which investigated the Kennedy assassination, as the location from which Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed President Kennedy and wounded Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.

David W. Belin, the executive director of the panel headed by the President's brother, the presidential commission on the assassination, said that the C.I.A. had declined to answer questions about the depository's role in the assassination.

The commission's investigation of the C.I.A.'s domestic activities only after its investigation has been completed.

The Rockefeller commission limited its investigation to the period between the assassination and the Warren Commission's report. Although it was not his intention to reopen the entire investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, "the allegation has been made that the C.I.A. and particularly Mr. Hunt was in Dallas on 22 Nov. 1963."

After leaving the Warren Commission, Mr. Belin wrote a book analyzing its work and said he had been in Dallas on the day of the assassination. He said that Oswald was the lone killer of President Kennedy and that the C.I.A. had no role in the assassination.

other than Lee Harvey Oswald." Mr. Hunt, who is preparing to return to prison following the failure of an appeal seeking to overturn his conviction, reportedly testified in a closed session with Rockefeller commission investigator on Wednesday.

Mr. Gregory met with commission investigators earlier, reportedly provided knowledgeable information and outlined the assertion that centers of the photograph.

Mr. Hunt reportedly told the commission staff that he was at home in the Washington, D.C. area on the day of the Kennedy assassination, had dined that evening with his family, and supplied the names of witnesses who could attest his whereabouts.

The sources said that Mr. Hunt also gave the investigators a statement in which he maintained that he had never visited Dallas in 1971 and had never met Mr. Sturgis until after the assassination.

Mr. Gregory also reportedly denied the report, which has lately gained some currency among anti-assassination investigators, that he met Oswald in Mexico City in 1963 while serving as chief of the C.I.A. station there.

The Warren Commission inquiry established that Oswald visited Mexico City on Sept. 27, 1963, less than two months before the Kennedy assassination, when he requested permission to visit Cuba from the Castro Government's embassy there.

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