

Pike Is Convinced JFK Was Not Slain by Oswald Alone

Retired Bishop James A. Pike said yesterday he has become convinced that President Kennedy's assassination involved a conspiracy and was not the work of Lee Harvey Oswald alone.

The Episcopal churchman, interviewed at Kennedy International Airport in New York by United Press International, disputed Chief Justice Earl Warren. Warren has contended that "national security" made it necessary to withhold some evidence.

Pike said he had read the Warren Commission's report and other material.

"I too regard the conspiracy hypothesis as more credible, more plausible, than the alternative," he said.

TO CALL ON LBJ

He announced that he was joining an interfaith committee which will call on President Johnson "within the next 10 days" to demand release of all withheld evidence.

On the committee with Pike are Edward M. Keating, Roman Catholic and Bay Area publisher of Ramparts magazine, and Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. A man of boundless energy,

Pike was censured for so-called irresponsibility by the Episcopal Church only this past week in Wheeling, W. Va.

Yesterday Pike said, according to UPI:

"It is mandatory that we dispel all these rumors surrounding the assassination.

What is the most important thing in the long run — the truth or what effect the evidence might have on our image abroad? "I think the truth."

Keating, also present at the news conference, said the "most critical suppressed evidence" included the film of the assassination made by Dallas businessman Abraham Zapruder and the 40 autopsy photographs and X-rays of Kennedy's body.

"Our committee has no political purpose," Pike said. "We're not plugging any particular theory or attempting to attribute the assassination to any particular group."