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Good morning!

At times, it helps to believe in evolution and that man is not yet finished.

Lincoln County (Maine) News

Weisberg tabs JFK report as 'con job'

By ROLLIE ATKINSON
Staff Writer

A Frederick author and longtime critic of the investigations into John F. Kennedy's assassination says the Senate Intelligence Committee report released Monday is a "con job on the public" and ignores the most significant issues in the past president's murder.

"It's just another exploitation and another deception that the American people will have to suffer," said Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash I & II" and "Coverup," books which refute the Warren Commission findings about Kennedy's death.

Weisberg said he found nothing new or surprising in the Senate report which detailed bits of information surrounding the assassination the Senate panel said were covered up by senior FBI and CIA officials.

The covert plots to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro, the strange travel and rendezvous arrangements of known CIA contacts and other possible leads and information left out of the Warren Commission, Weisberg said, are all familiar to him.

Upset with its viewed shortcomings, Weisberg said the Senate report is a "non-investigation."

"The report is titled 'The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy,' yet the introduction to the

report says the purpose was not to duplicate the efforts of the Warren Commission, or review all the evidence or even address the question of whether Lee Harvey Oswald was the true assassin," Weisberg reported.

Weisberg said the major failing of this and all other subsequent government

investigations was their "fear to seek the real murderer of Kennedy."

"For the past 12 years, we have seen, as an undercurrent to this report, that not one of our public institutions has worked in times of crisis."

The Frederick author said he

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Cuban connection in Kennedy's death?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Richard Schweiker says his staff is pursuing a number of leads on the assassination of President Kennedy that could link the 1963 slaying to either a pro-or anti-Cuban conspiracy.

The leads were not disclosed in the Senate intelligence committee's report on the assassination, Schweiker said. The committee report was released Wednesday, revealing a pattern of noncooperation between key CIA and FBI officials and the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

One lead mentioned in the Senate committee report, involving the "strange travel" of a Cuban-American

with a possible tie to Oswald and Cuban intelligence, also is being pursued. Staffers are checking a reported sighting of the man in Dallas at the time of the Kennedy assassination in November 1963, Schweiker said.

The Pennsylvania Republican refused to disclose any details concerning one "very hot lead" that would link the assassination to an anti-Cuban group or another "very promising" lead involving pro-Cuban forces, saying to do so would jeopardize the investigation.

Schweiker commented following the release of a 106-page report Wednesday which said the CIA and FBI failed to follow up leads that "might have sub-

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Cuban

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stantially affected the course of the investigation" into whether there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

The committee stressed it did not uncover evidence justifying a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy. But the panel said the failure of the CIA and FBI to pursue certain leads "impeaches the process" which led the Warren Commission to conclude that Oswald acted alone.

Noting the controversy that has surrounded the Kennedy assassination for more than 12 years, the committee said that "regrettably, this report will not put the matter to rest." The panel, which disbanded last month, recommended that the investigation be continued by the new permanent Senate Intelligence Committee.

Schweiker headed the panel's investigation into the Kennedy assassination but is not a member of the new committee.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, DHawaii, chairman of the new committee, predicted in an interview Wednesday that it would take about six months before the panel will be ready to decide whether to continue the probe.

The report released Wednesday described in detail three leads which raised the possibility of Cuban involvement but which it said were never adequately investigated.

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possesses facts which prove that Oswald was not Kennedy's murderer.

As to who the real murderer is, Weisberg said more investigation is needed, but he said he does not believe the CIA murdered Kennedy or was all that closely involved.

"All of this CIA information is pure CIA propaganda being released by the CIA now "because it is opportune to release these CIA disclosures with the Kennedy report," said Weisberg, suggesting the CIA connection to the Kennedy killing is a wrong trail for future investigators.

For Weisberg, who has dedicated several years of exhausting and expensive effort and court battles to obtain records and files pertaining to the Kennedy assassination, the paramount issue has become, "Can our government and institutions be counted on to find and deliver us the truth?"

"The whole affair takes on an

Orwellian color," Weisberg said.

"He who controls the past controls the future," the Frederick man quoted George Orwell from his book "1984" to illustrate the crux of the JFK, Warren Commission controversy.

The Senate report quotes a memo from then deputy Attorney General Nicholas B. Katzenbach declaring:

"The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial."

Weisberg claims the FBI, Secret Service and other government officials "feared they could not solve the crime and, rather than risk that, they rushed to a convenient conclusion."

Weisberg said it is his opinion, ever careful to separate fact from opinion, that Kennedy was not killed because he was a Catholic or was John F. Kennedy.

The author speculates that policy decisions made by President Kennedy

may have sealed his fate.

"Little notice has ever been given to it, but just prior to his murder in November, 1963, Kennedy ordered the liquidation (withdrawal of American troops) from Vietnam.

"On the day he was shot, several hundred troops were reporting home, but, only days following his death, the Pentagon released a change of order reversing the President's decision. It received only scant attention," Weisberg said.

Another serious shortcoming of the Senate report, Weisberg said, is the exclusion of any mention of the Secret Service, which held tightly to the death certificate and other facts.

The CIA did not investigate for the Warren Commission but only analyzed data at its request. Weisberg claimed.

Since publication of his first "Whitewash" book in 1965, Weisberg said "no government action since has led me to believe I made a mistake."

About the Senate panel's report, the Frederick author said, "It took them 11 years to confirm my book, 'Coverup'."

Weisberg said he finds no comfort or retribution in the confirmation given by the Senate report to his claims that details of Kennedy's death were a coverup.

"I give 100 to 1 odds that they will continue to bury the investigation," Weisberg said.

"If the President of the United States can be killed and the Senate chooses to duck the issue," Weisberg asks, "than are any of us safe?"