

'Code of Conduct' Needed by Press

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Warren Commission said that news media must share with Dallas police the blame for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

It called for a code of conduct to be drawn up by the news media to cover such situations.

The commission's report pictured the influx of newsmen to Dallas last November, and their subsequent activities, as utter chaos.

The "general disorder" of the Dallas Police Department that weekend "reveals a regrettable lack of self-discipline by the newsmen," the commission said.

IT ALSO faulted police and news media for the "undigested flow of evidence" conveyed to the public.

It said this lent, more than anything, to the myriad myths and rumors about events surrounding the assassination.

Newsmen, cameras and bright lights were packed into the department basement Nov. 24 as Oswald was let through to be transferred to county jail.

It was then that Dallas clubowner Jack Ruby

stepped from the crowd and shot him.

THE COMMISSION cited one incident where a newsmen who had wandered into a police office "admits hiding a telephone behind a desk so that he would have exclusive access to it if something developed."

Within 24 hours of the assassination, 300 press, radio and television newsmen were in Dallas.

"Such police efforts as there were to control the newsmen were unavailing," it said.

Newsmen didn't cooperate, it said, with police orders that they not ask questions or try to interview Oswald.

"The right of the public to know does not give the press license to interfere with the efficient operation of law-enforcement agencies," the commission said.

IT SAID the department attempted to keep the press fully informed on the progress of the Oswald investigation.

Some police officials were quoted as saying newsmen threatened to report mishandling of Oswald unless they were allowed to see him.

Press Hunts Best Way To Do Job

GREENBORO (N. C.)— (AP) — Miles H. Wolff, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, said today he has asked a committee of his organization to meet with representatives of other news media to consider recommendations of the Warren Commission on a code of professional conduct for newsmen.

Wolff, executive editor of the Greensboro Daily News, said the ASNE has had its committee at work on the problem since last April. The committee's report is to be published in the Oct. 1 issue of the ASNE's bulletin.

Wolff said he has suggested that Alfred Friendly of Washington, committee chairman, meet with representatives of the Sigma Delta Chi journalistic fraternity, broadcast newsmen's association and any press groups that want to join the discussions.

The Warren Commission criticized news media for their handling of the events associated with President John F. Kennedy's assassination.