

NEWS MEDIA ACT TO STUDY CHARGES

Meeting to Weigh Warren Report's Criticisms

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 — Representatives of leading news organizations will meet here next week to discuss the Warren Commission's views and recommendations on news gathering.

The meeting was arranged by Alfred Friendly, chairman of the press access committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. It will be held Oct. 17.

Mr. Friendly, managing editor of The Washington Post, said that a preliminary exploration and discussion was planned. One question likely to be considered is whether to set up a study group.

In its report Sept. 28 on President John F. Kennedy's assassination, the Warren Com-

mission sharply criticized the conduct of news and television personnel in Dallas.

It accused them of "a regrettable lack of self-discipline" and recommended that representatives of the bar, law-enforcement agencies and news media jointly develop ethical standards for news coverage of criminal investigations and court proceedings.

Mr. Friendly called the meeting at the request of Miles Wolff, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and executive editor of The Greensboro (N.C.) News.

Invited to send representatives were the American Newspaper Publishers Association, the Associated Press Managing Editors Association, the Sigma Delta Chi journalistic fraternity, the National Association of Broadcasters, Radio and Television News Directors Association, the American Newspaper Guild, The Associated Press and United Press International.

At least five executives from the major television and radio networks—the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System, the American Broadcasting Company and

the Mutual Broadcasting System—are expected to be on hand. However, they will attend not as representatives of the networks but as members of two of the trade associations invited—the National Association of Broadcasters and the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

The three national television networks say they are not planning any comment on the Warren Report. The question was put to Louis Hausman, vice president in charge of press information of A.B.C., and E. Kidder Meade Jr., vice president of corporate information of C.B.S. A spokesman for C.B.S. however, recalled that Dr. Frank Stanton, president of C.B.S., had urged establishment of a code of conduct applicable to television, the press, the legal profession and police officials.

The Brookings Institution, a private nonprofit organization here, is also considering a study of ethical standards for news coverage of criminal investigations and court proceedings. However, a spokesman said

today that the study was only in the "thinking stage."

The committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors that Mr. Friendly heads had been studying problems of mass news coverage before the Kennedy assassination and published a preliminary report Oct. 1.

The committee suggested that news-gathering organizations pool their personnel for coverage of events "in appropriate cases." Under such pooling arrangements, a limited number of reporters, television men and photographers cover an event and share their reports, films and pictures with others.

The pooling device is commonly used on Presidential trips, when separate airplanes are used by the Presidential party and the press. Several reporters, television men and photographers usually fly in the President's plane and later share their material with the others.

Mr. Friendly said his committee favored pooled coverage of scheduled events attracting news personnel in such large numbers that they might "swamp or change the news event itself."

All three national television networks said yesterday that they were not planning any comment on Warren report. The question was put to Louis Hausman, vice president of the National Broadcasting Company; Michael J. Foster, vice president in charge of press information at the American Broadcasting Company; and E. Kidder Meade Jr., vice president of corporate information at the Columbia Broadcasting System. A C.B.S. spokesman recalled that Dr. Frank Stanton, president of C.B.S. had urged establishment of a code of conduct applicable to television and press, legal profession and police officials and that the Brookings Institution was considering undertaking a study.