

Editors Say Warren Report Points Up Big News Problem

By the Associated Press

News executives are widely agreed that a serious problem was pointed up in the Warren Commission's criticism of the clamor surrounding coverage of events connected with President Kennedy's assassination.

They also said studies were being initiated to find means of resolving the difficulties.

But they emphasized that news media had a primary obligation to get information as fully and rapidly as possible in a case of such overriding public importance.

Some exceptions also were voiced to the criticism.

Several editors commented that it has been up to Dallas authorities to lay down rules for orderly conditions in police premises.

Remedial Action Begun

However, leaders in the news industry disclosed that various efforts were under way, or being launched, to seek means for coping with such situations in the future.

The commission complained that news personnel flooding Dallas at the time of the assassination showed a "lack of self-discipline" and created "general disorder" in Dallas police headquarters.

News media were urged to draw up a code of conduct for such situations.

The report said both news media and police authorities "who failed to impose conditions more in keeping with orderly processes of justice" must share blame for the

breakdown of security involved in the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin.

Oswald was being led through a police department basement, packed with newsmen and broadcasting crews, when Jack Ruby, a Dallas night club owner, stepped out of the crowd and shot him.

Undigested Evidence

The commission also said the news outpouring of "undigested evidence" contributed to myths and rumors.

Miles H. Wolff, executive editor of the Greenboro (N.C.) Daily News and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, said a special study committee planned consultations with radio-television officials on the problems.

The ASNE committee chairman, Alfred Friendly, managing editor of the Washington Post, said a preliminary report to be issued soon by his committee would recommend a system for "pooling of newsmen

in certain circumstances" where large numbers of them could create confusion.

Sam Ragan, president of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association, named a committee of outstanding editors to study the question and make recommendations.

Ragan, executive editor of the News & Observer, Raleigh, N.C., and the Raleigh Times said, "The responsibility for orderly coverage of such events lies with the proper authorities in charge at the time. Such authorities, of course, must have the co-operation of news media."

Exceptional Circumstances

Wes Gallagher, general manager of the Associated Press, said that "to apply the ordinary criteria of what should or should not be reported in a criminal case to the assassination of the President of the United States would not only be futile but basically wrong," he added.