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advance for ams of monday sept 26

assassination

New York, Sept. 25 (AP)- Books criticizing the Warren Report on the John F. Kennedy assassination still roll off the presses -- but the report itself appeared today to have petered out as a best-seller.

The summary of the investigation by a commission headed by Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, was issued in 1964.

Millions of copies were sold in the United States and abroad, including translations into French, Spanish and Italian.

The report was published in hardback form by the Associated Press, Doubleday and McGraw-Hill. The Government Printing Office produced clothbound and paperback versions. The report was offered in paperback by Bantam Books, in conjunction with the New York Times, and the Popular Library.

Bantam Books alone sold more than a million copies, the Associated Press 650,000, the Popular Library 500,000.

About the time the demand for the report died down, various authors began publishing books which attacked the Warren Commission's methods and findings.

There were "The Unanswered Questions about President Kennedy's Assassination," by Sylvan Fox; "The Oswald Affair" by Leo Sauvage; "Inquest," by Edward Jay Epstein, and, more recently, "Rush to Judgment," by Mark Lane. A few lesser works have been printed privately at the authors' expense.

Despite the continuing controversy, sales of the report have dwindled to a trickle. The Doubleday and Associated Press hardbacks are out of print. The Government Printing Office sold only 249 cloth and paperback copies during August.

Bantam described interest in the report as "low," but said it was circularizing dealers to find out whether books challenging the report were arousing fresh reader interest.

A spokesman for the Popular Library said sales were "negligible" although there was "still some school interest."

The Soviet Union last month forbade further distribution of the report in the USSR. The commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone engineered the assassination of the president runs counter to a Soviet version -- that Kennedy's slaying resulted from a right wing conspiracy of "texas oil barons."

When the Warren Report was first issued, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow gave English language copies to 80 top Soviet officials and distributed another 1,050 English language summaries.

Last July the embassy started passing out 1,400 Russian language copies. Of these, 653 had been handed to Soviet citizens when the ban was ~~was~~ imposed.

(end advance for ams of Monday sept 26, moved Sept. 23).

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