

CIA Panel May Probe JFK Killing

by Lou Cannon

San Diego, April 3 - President Ford said today that the Rockefeller commission may investigate a report that the [CIA] was involved in the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

At the same time the President used apparently carefully chosen language to defend the basic conclusion of the Warren commission which investigated the slaying....

The question came as a surprise at a news conference which largely focused on Vietnam issues. So did Mr. Ford's apparent preparation for it and his careful answer.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said afterward that Mr. Ford was able to answer the question with such precision because the President had looked up the Warren commission findings "within the past month."

Nessen said the subject was being discussed about the time the allegations were raised about possible CIA involvement and that the President decided then to look up what the commission had said.

At the press conference today Mr. Ford was asked whether he still had confidence in the Warren commission findings. After replying that he does, the President made this statement:

"It is my understanding that the Rockefeller commission may, if the facts seem to justify it, take a look . . . at the problem, and I suspect that the House and Senate committees that are currently investigating CIA history may do the same."

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