

House Panel Probes FBI Links to Oswald, Ruby

Longer story, NYT, filed CIA (d)

Washington

A House subcommittee has opened an investigation into the FBI's relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby before President Kennedy's assassination, the subcommittee's chairman said yesterday.

This is the first official public inquiry by Congress into whether evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission since the commission reported in 1964 that Oswald was the sole assassin.

Don Edwards (Dem-Calif.), chairman of the civil and constitutional rights subcommittee, said that the purpose of his panel's investigation "is not to reopen the Warren Commission — others may later decide to do that — but to set the record straight on just what went on."

Edwards said that several recent disclosures about the FBI's role before the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, had convinced members of the subcommittee that the matter required its scrutiny.

He said the committee will concentrate on the following three

main areas in its initial investigation:

- The disclosure that the FBI, presumably on orders from its then director, J. Edgar Hoover, destroyed a letter written by Oswald several days before the assassination in which he threatened to "blow up" a Dallas police station unless the bureau's agents stopped trying to interview him.

- Recently uncovered documents that indicated that Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald in the Dallas police headquarters, was a paid informant for the FBI.

- The charge by William Walter, a former code clerk in the New Orleans FBI field office, that the bureau warned its Southern field offices five days before Mr. Kennedy's death that there would be an assassination attempt with a rifle in Dallas.

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