

Ramparts Boss, Pike Think Oswald Was Part Of Conspiracy

NEW YORK (UPI)—Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike and Ramparts magazine publisher Edward M. Keating said Saturday it is their belief the assassination of President Kennedy involved a conspiracy in which Lee Harvey Oswald played only a part.

Both men conceded this conclusion might be wrong, but they said all evidence, both from the government and from other interested parties, must be revealed to the public.

Keating said "the most critically suppressed evidence" included film of the assassination made by Dallas, Tex., businessman Abraham Zapruder and the 40 autopsy photographs and X rays of Kennedy's body.

"I think the American people can accept the truth, whatever it is," Keating said.

Forming Committee

Keating, a Roman Catholic, and Pike announced they and Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York are forming a national interfaith committee, which will call on President Johnson to release all withheld evidence in the assassination. Heschel was not present at the news conference at Kennedy International Airport because Saturday is the Jewish sabbath.

Keating said committee members will attempt to present the petition to the White House within the next 10 days.

"It is mandatory that we dispel all these rumors surrounding the assassination," Pike said. "What is the most important thing in the long run—the truth or what effect the evidence might have on our image abroad?" he asked. Pike, former Episcopal bishop of San Francisco, has been criticized recently by his church for his interpretation of Christian doctrines.

"I think the truth," he said, "because this image thing just isn't selling."

'Edited Version'

Keating said Life magazine claims to have the unaltered Zapruder film and that the Warren Commission received "an edited version of it." He referred to "missing frames" of

the film not released by Life which he said might have showed evidence of another bullet.

"If you have one bullet unaccounted for," Keating said, "the Warren Commission report goes out the window."

The photographs and X rays of the President's body, he said, "could contribute a great deal to the resolution of my doubts and those of many others."

Pike said that after reading the Warren report and other material, "I too regard the conspiracy hypothesis as more credible, more plausible, than the alternative."

Both men said they had no hard evidence to indicate where the conspiracy lay — either from the left or from the right.

"If the revelation of all the evidence supports the contention that Oswald was alone in this assassination, then I would be the happiest man in the world because we would at least have the truth," Keating said.

No Political Purpose

"Our committee," Pike said, "has no political purpose. We want hypotheses based on fact because we're not plugging any particular theory or attempting to attribute the assassination to any particular group."

Keating said, "Approximately 90 per cent of all evidence gathered by the Central Intelligence Agency and 50 per cent gathered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been withheld."

Both disputed the contention of U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren that reasons of national security made it incumbent to withhold some of the evidence.

"We're talking about the facts of the assassination of the president of the United States—not the facts about the component parts of a nuclear device or the tactics of our war in Viet Nam," Keating said.

"Warren isn't God," Pike said. "Let us judge about national security. I have one vote, you have one vote, and Justice Warren has one vote. Let's have the truth."

Keating suggested that a group appointed by the Ameri-

can Bar Association should evaluate all evidence gathered.

"Certainly it should not be evaluated by the FBI, the CIA or the Secret Service because they are all interested parties," Keating said.

Keating said it might be difficult to obtain government agreement to release the withheld evidence. He added that he believed it would be easier to persuade Life magazine to release the Zapruder film.