

Reopening Demanded In JFK Death Probe

By Hal Verb

The minute I walked into the room at KCBS, Tuesday night, a short bespectacled man pointed in my direction and drawled: "There's my buddy. He's the one who helped me by reviewing my book."

The comment came from Penn Jones, Jr., the spunky editor of the Midlothian (Texas) Mirror, who is currently the talk of the nation for his article in the November issue of "Ramparts" on the Kennedy assassination.

It was our first meeting, Jones' remark was a reference to a review I did for the BARB of his book, "Forgive My Grief." (BARB was the first newspaper in the country to carry the startling story of the "mystery deaths" of assassination witnesses. It ran on June 24, 1966).

Seated next to Jones was Bill Turner, former FBI agent and now of Ramparts staff. Turner's article in the November Ramparts ("I was a Burglar, Wiretapper, Bugger and Spy for the FBI") is also creating something of a stir across the country. The two are working together on different aspects of the assassination.

At a press conference the next day Jones joined with Ramparts publisher Ed Keating in demanding a new investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Keating urged the formation of a new three-man commission to be appointed by President Johnson. According to Keating the three-man panel should consist of a distinguished jurist, a pathologist, and a noted religious leader.

A committee tentatively called the "Citizen's Committee for Public Disclosure" is being formed, Keating said. It will meet with President Johnson in the future.

"It is an injustice to the American people and an injustice to the late American President for the truth not to come out," Keating stated.

On being asked about Ramparts' interest in Jones' investigation of the "mystery deaths," Keating replied that at first they didn't believe the story, but now, "we think he's absolutely right."

Jones then started to list eleven "questionable deaths" for the reporters present. One reporter interrupted him: "Do you have any information as to who is behind

the conspiracy -- do you know their names?"

Jones leaned back in the chair. "No, I don't," he replied, "but if I ever learn it I'll shout it to the housetops!"

I do not doubt that he would do exactly that if necessary.