

Senator Hints of White House Coverup in JFK Assassination

Washington

Senator Richard Schweiker said yesterday he feels there is a possibility the White House was involved in a coverup after the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Pennsylvania Republican commented that he had been told by some officials that there was a fear of the results if it should be determined that Cuba had a hand in the murder of Kennedy.

That could have led to a nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union over Cuba, and to avoid this a coverup may have been arranged, Schweiker said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"I think frankly the real possibility exists that the White House was part of that coverup," Schweiker said.

Asked after the broadcast appearance if he could elaborate on any White House involvement, Schweiker only said:

"I think there's a real possibility that the White House was part of the coverup of the Kennedy assassination investigation. It could have been out of fear of what they might find in terms of retaliating against Castro or it could have been out of some knowledge about Castro retaliating against our attempts against his life. We don't know. This is one of the things that the phase two



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SEN. RICHARD SCHWEIKER
'A fear of results'

investigation should pursue."

Schweiker headed a subcommittee of the Senate intelligence committee that looked into the Kennedy assassination, and its recent report stated that several leads were not followed up by the FBI or the Central Intelligence Agency.

There have been disclosures of attempts on the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and Schweiker said leads that might have related Kennedy's death to a retaliation by Castro were never checked out.

He has pressed to have these leads followed and repeated yesterday that his subcommittee received many new leads that it was unable to pursue. He has said he hopes the new Senate committee supervising intelligence operations will investigate this area.

Schweiker said he personally has never made a judgment on whether Lee Harvey Oswald was indeed a lone assassin of Kennedy, as reported by the Warren Commission.

But he said he feels that if it were the case that the slaying was a retaliation for attempts on Castro's life, this should be made public.

Asked if the CIA and FBI have been cooperating with his investigation, Schweiker said they have provided all requested material, but he cannot be sure they have turned over everything important.

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