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# WARREN'S BOARD OPENS ITS INQUIRY ON ASSASSINATION

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## Calls for Subpoena Power, Raising the Possibility of Public Hearings

By ANTHONY LEWIS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—The commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination began work today with a long meeting.

It decided to ask Congress for power to subpoena persons and papers. Little opposition was expected, and early passage of the necessary bill was almost certain.

The request for subpoena power opens the possibility that the commission will hold public hearings and otherwise make its own detailed search for the facts.

The alternative would be to appraise material gathered by others, especially the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The commission did not indicate that any decision had been made on the scope of its inquiry. It was not likely that such a decision could even be approached at this early stage.

### Has Little Information

Chief Justice Earl Warren, the chairman, said after the meeting that the commission has no official information yet.

"We are deliberating somewhat in the dark," he said, "because we have no reports as yet from any agency of the Government. The information we have now is little more than what we have learned through the news media."

The meeting, which lasted two hours and forty minutes, was primarily for organizational purposes. That task was not completed, and will be continued at a session tomorrow afternoon.

The meeting was held in a hearing room of the National Archives Building. The Chief Justice sat at one end of a long table, with his six other members on either side.

On one side were Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia; John J. McCloy, former High Commissioner for Germany, and Representative Gerald Ford, Michigan Republican.

### Katzenbach Present

On the other side were Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky; Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana, and Allen W. Dulles, former chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Photographers were allowed in before the meeting began. Then the doors were closed.

Deputy Attorney General Nicholas D. Katzenbach, attended about half the session. He has been in charge of the Justice Department's handling of the aftermath of the tragedy.

Mr. Katzenbach was not yet able to transmit to the commission the department's report on the assassination and the subsequent murder of the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The F.B.I. was still doing last minute work on the report. Justice officials will go over it before sending it to President Johnson and, presumably, the commission. Some or all of it may be made public immediately.