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INSIDE WASHINGTON

Warren Commission

Split Over Release ^{SR1J} 7/24/64

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WASHINGTON—There is a sharp difference of opinion in the special commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy over its long-rumored report—which is still far from completed.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman, is pressing vigorously for publishing findings early next month.

THAT IS ALSO favored by Allan Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Rep. Gerald Ford (R-Mich.).

President Lyndon B. Johnson is reportedly strongly urging the issuing of the commission's report before the convening of the Democratic National Convention the last week in August. There is no authoritative explanation for his attitude.

But other commission members are balking.

THEY CONTEND there are still serious gaps in the testimony and evidence, and maintain the inquiry must be continued in an effort to obtain the missing information.

Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.) is particularly stressing this.

"Why the rush?" says Cooper. "The whole world will pore over our report and nothing must be left undone to get at the bottom of every aspect of this still inexplicable tragedy. I see no valid reason for hurrying to windup. I know of no deadline we must meet."

Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.) feels much the same way. He has made it very clear he will carefully study every page of testimony and will agree to no

findings until he has done that.

COOPER WANTS Mrs. Marina Oswald, 22-year-old widow of the accused killer, to be recalled (the third time) for additional questioning.

It is Cooper's view Mrs. Oswald should be able to shed more light on her husband's activities and contacts in the U.S. and Russia than she has so far. He is frankly unsatisfied with what she has told the probers.

In her first appearance, Mrs. Oswald stated she knew nothing about her husband's outside life. But under questioning the second time, she admitted being aware that he had attended "political meetings." That was all the probers were able to get from her.

ANOTHER WITNESS Cooper is insisting should be brought before the commission is Llewellyn Thompson, ambassador to Russia during the three years Oswald lived there as an avowed defector.

Now special Soviet bloc consultant to the White House and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Thompson, for some unexplained reason, has avoided testifying. There appears to be some reluctance either on his or the State Department's part. Members of the commission have been told Thompson knows nothing about Oswald.

THAT DOESN'T satisfy Cooper and Russell. They see no reason why an exception should be made of the career diplomat and are pressing that he be summoned for interrogation.

Cooper wants to know particularly why State Department authorities ruled Oswald had not renounced his citizenship after he had gone to the Moscow Embassy and formally disavowed it. There has been no explanation from the department on this.

The official who made the ruling is no longer in the department.