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Warren Commission Costs Never Bared

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WASHINGTON—There is a curious omission in the flurry of books published recently in the U.S. and abroad assailing the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

Not one of these critical volumes says anything about the extraordinary fact that there has never been a financial accounting of the probe.

Even members of the seven-man Warren Commission are in the dark about that.

IT WAS THEIR understanding that a detailed financial statement would be submitted and made a part of the commission's record before it disbanded—in October, 1964. For some unexplained reason this has never been done, although the four congressional members of the commission have several times sought such an accounting.

Informally, there has been one financial accounting—of a general nature.

The General Services Administration has listed the commission's expenditures as totaling \$1.2 million.

LARGEST SINGLE item is \$556,500 for printing. Second is \$255,650 for "salaries and related benefits." There is no explanation of the latter.

Similarly, the statement contains no indication of the source of the \$1.2 million. Understanding has been that the money came from contingency funds available to President Johnson—who initiated the investigation and selected the members.

The GSA statement notes that "expenses of personnel detailed to the commission

from other government agencies are not included in the above figures." The FBI did a great deal of such work.

General counsel J. Lee Rankin reportedly received \$35,000. Other senior attorneys got from \$15,000 to \$20,000. All of them only part time.

In all there were 13 lawyers on the commission's staff.

The actual writing of the commission's widely controversial report was done by several junior attorneys. One of the critical books charges that the senior lawyers contributed very little to the final version of the findings.

IT IS NO SECRET that several members of the commission feel that the former Mrs. Marina Oswald, widow of the assassin, did not relate all she knew about him and his activities. These members now are saying she should have been more rigorously grilled.

WE PREDICT—Stokely Carmichael, head of the militant SNCC, is going abroad to try to raise much-needed funds from wealthy British and other pacifists and foes of the U.S. Viet Nam policy, and to bolster his sagging prestige with U.S. Negroes. Among those Carmichael plans to visit is Bertrand Russell, aged leftist who is trying to organize a "war criminal" trial of President Johnson.

Starting January 1, the wives of U.S. military personnel will be supplied with birth control pills and information by the government if they ask for them. This will be done under the new military medicare law passed by the recent Congress.

NOW THAT the election is over, there will be a big rush of foreign junkets by members of Congress. Virtually every committee of both the House and Senate has set up such expense-free trips to all parts of the world.