

The Warren Report

Press Acts on Criticism

News executives widely agreed yesterday that a serious problem was pointed up in the Warren Commission's criticism of the clamor surrounding coverage of events connected with President Kennedy's assassination.

They also said studies were being initiated to find means of resolving the difficulties.

But they emphasized that news media had a primary obligation to get information as fully and rapidly as possible in a case of such overriding public importance.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The commission complained that news personnel flooding Dallas at the time of assassination showed a "lack of self-discipline" and created "general disorder" in Dallas police headquarters.

News media were urged to draw up a code of conduct for such situations.

William Randolph Hearst Jr., editor-in-chief of The Hearst Newspapers, said it has "become clear that we have a problem when reporters descend on one spot en masse." The trouble, he said, is that there is scant opportunity for "setting up orderly information procedures in these emergencies."

Miles H. Wolff, executive editor of the Greenboro

(N. C.) Daily News and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, said a special study committee planned consultations with radio-television officials on the problems.

Sam Ragan, president of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association, named a special committee to study the question and make recommendations.

OTHERS

George Beebe, managing editor of the Miami Herald, was named to head the committee.

Gene Robb, president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and publisher of the Albany (N. Y.) Times-Union and the Knickerbocker News, said the ANPA also had similar studies in progress.

"The paramount public interest that newspapers always must serve is to get and print the news, exactly what they did in the Oswald case," he said.

Earl J. Johnson, vice president and editor of United Press International, said:

"We have a responsibility

to be represented at all newsworthy events by reporters and photographers because we and the AP are primary for daily newspapers and broadcasters."