

12,000 Slog Through Rain To Get Report

By William J. Raspberry
Staff Reporter

Some want it for their children and grandchildren, others believe it might one day become a collector's item, still others feel they simply ought to have it around, and a few are still feeling their grief over President Kennedy's assassination.

But few of the 12,000 persons who splashed their way through the rain to the Government Printing Office yesterday expected to learn much from the Warren Commission report that they didn't already know from the newspapers and television.

Apparently none expected to reach any new conclusions on the guilt or innocence of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. Still they came, in lines as steady as the day-long rain.

Busiest in Memory

Perhaps because of the rain, early crowds were smaller than expected but heavy enough to keep four clerks ringing up sales, even at around 8:30 a.m. when there were almost as many newsmen as customers in the GPO bookstore.

By mid-morning the store was having its "busiest day since I can remember," according to Fern Pierce, one of the clerks. Sales were far ahead of such perennial bestsellers as the President's budget report, President Kennedy's Inaugural Address and the Congressional Directory.

Hard-back copies of the report, at \$3.25, were outselling the \$2.50 paperback version by about 2-to-1.

While some other Government books and pamphlets were sold yesterday, almost everyone who came in left with at least one copy of the Warren report. Several persons bought a dozen or more copies—for libraries, schools, friends and the people back at the office.

Print Order Increased

The original order of 50,000 copies for the first printing was increased over the weekend to about 70,000, according to R. E. Darling, assistant to the Superintendent of Documents. A special shift worked through Sunday night filling advance mail orders for some 2000 books and had them ready for the mails by 8 a.m. Thousands of other orders were expected to be included in some 30-40,000 letters still unopened yesterday.