

Warren Report Due Tonight; Many Waiting to See Whether It Dispels Doubts, Suspicions

Expectation Is That It Will Not Lay to Rest the Theory That Assassination Was Result of a Conspiracy

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 26—Responsible officials awaited publication of the Warren commission report to see how many doubts and suspicions about the Kennedy assassination it removes.

The four-inch-thick volume, presented to President Lyndon B. Johnson Thursday, will be made public Sunday night. It goes on sale in a lighter, two-inch thick book Monday.

(A review will be carried Sunday by Post-Dispatch television station KSD-TV from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., by KTVI from 5:30 to 6, and by KMOX-TV from 10:15 to 12:15 p.m. Radio programs will be carried by KSD from 8:05 to 8:30 p.m. and by WBBY from 6 to 6:24 p.m.)

President Johnson named the seven-man commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, Nov. 29, just a week after President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in downtown Dallas.

Mr. Johnson directed the commission to "study and report upon all facts and circumstances relating to the assassination of the late President, John F. Kennedy, and the subsequent violent death of the man charged with the assassination."

To Allay Suspicions

Officials made it clear from the start that the main purpose of the investigation was to allay widespread suspicions, at home and especially abroad, that the assassination was the result of either a Communist or a right-wing plot.

The expectation now, on the eve of the publication of the report, is that it has a poor chance of accomplishing this aim.

"It won't lay to rest the doubts in this country, and certainly not in Europe," one official said today.

Officials whose chief concern is the image or reputation of the United States blame the circumstances of the killing, distorted and sensational accounts by Communists and others, the long delay in presenting the official story, news leaks about the commission's work, and to some extent the commission itself.

Pattern Common Elsewhere

The killing, one official pointed out, followed the classic pattern of conspiratorial political assassination, in which the killer is silenced by being killed himself. The pattern is common in much of the world, although not in the United States.

In the Kennedy case, Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with murdering the President, was shot and killed by Jack Ruby in view of millions of television watchers as Oswald was about to be transferred from the Dallas police department to the county jail.

"The only way to straighten this out would be if Ruby hadn't shot Oswald," the official said. "To be completely convincing, the story would have to come out of Oswald's own mouth."

Communist Distortion

Distortion by the Communist press began after a short period of apparently genuine shock and regret. Soviet and Chinese press agencies soon began portraying the assassination as the result of a right-wing plot supported by high officials in Washington.

They linked the event to an upsurge of rightwing activity in the United States and later with the nomination of Senator Barry M. Goldwater for President to support the thesis that this country was veering toward fascism.

In the Communist countries, there is hardly a person who does not believe that Mr. Kennedy's death was the result of a complex and sinister plot, it is thought here.

Similar beliefs are widespread in western Europe, notably France. Students of such matters in Washington consider that this is due partly to a readiness of European information media to cast doubt on the success or stability of the United States. American media, on the other hand, tend to lean in the direction of giving the United States Government the benefit of the doubt, it is felt.

Survey in Paris

A survey in the Paris area three days after the killing showed that 58 per cent believed Ruby killed Oswald to prevent further police inquiry. As for Oswald's motives, 33 per cent

thought he killed Kennedy because of the influence of some racist organization, another 18 per cent thought he did it for a pro-Communist or pro-Castro group, and only 19 per cent thought it the act of an unbalanced person.

In the United States, a Gallup poll reported Dec. 14 that 29 per cent thought Oswald acted on his own, 52 per cent thought some group or element was also responsible, and 19 per cent were uncertain.

Conspiracy theories based on incomplete information were given a long time to take root and grow in the period of secrecy when the commission was investigating the case. In the meantime, such positive information as the report of the autopsy performed at Bethesda Naval Hospital was withheld from the public.

Blemish on Windshield

The windshield of the presidential limousine, in which this reporter saw a blemish or hole the day of the assassination, has not been shown publicly since, and the Secret Service has refused to answer questions about it.

At the same time, officials familiar with the work of the commission have been passing out the word privately that the report will show Oswald to have been the one and only killer.

These leaks began early in the year. Some critics complained they gave the impression that the commission had reached its conclusions before it began its investigation.

The most flagrant leak was by the late President's brother, Robert F. Kennedy. Some officials consider it a serious blunder. As Attorney General, he had a liaison officer at the commission and was presumed to be informed of the commission's progress.

Made Comment in Poland

On his visit to Poland last June, Kennedy said that "there is no question" that his brother's assassination was the act of only one man, Lee Harvey Oswald. Kennedy said Oswald "was anti-social and felt that the only way to take out his strong feelings against life and society was by killing the President of the United States."

Chief Justice Warren has been accused by some right-wing groups of having prejudged the case. This was on the basis of remarks he made in the Capitol rotunda Nov. 24, when Mr. Kennedy's body was lying in state. The Chief Justice spoke of currents of hatred in this country.

A careful reading of his statement shows, however, that he spoke of neither left nor right, but merely of the possibility that the killer may have been driven to the act by an atmosphere of violence.

Remark by Warren

Much was made of a later remark by the Chief Justice, in which he told reporters that some of the testimony might not be disclosed "in your lifetime." Commission sources have said that he referred only to blind leads and to secret precautions for the President's safety—not, as some had supposed, to an elaborate plot too inflammatory to be disclosed.

The United States Information Agency, in hopes of knocking down the conspiracy theory, plans to distribute 25,000 copies of the report by air pouch to its posts around the world. They will be placed in libraries and distributed to officials, editors and other opinion leaders.

The agency's international press service is preparing to send an 8000-word account of the report by radio-telegraph to 111 posts in 107 countries. This material is made available to local newspapers and radio stations.

Television Shows Planned

Tentative plans were being made for providing taped television shows on features of the report to national networks or individual stations with which the agency has arrangements in 60 countries.

It is understood that the report deals in detail with the discrepancies that have been pointed out in the Kennedy case and with the plot theories described in books, magazines and newspapers here and abroad.

In accepting the report yesterday, Mr. Johnson told Warren by letter: "I commend it to the attention of all Americans and all our friends everywhere."

He said he knew the commission "has been guided throughout by a determination to find and to tell the whole truth of these terrible events."

"This is our obligation to the good name of the United States of America and to all men everywhere who respect our nation—and above all to the memory of President Kennedy."