

The Federal Diary

Praise Is Voiced For Staff Engaged On Warren Report

By Jerry Kluttz

Behind the massive Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy was a staff of civil servants and private attorneys who have won praise for their "unstinting efforts."



Kluttz

Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois described the staff yesterday as one of the ablest and most competent groups ever assembled and he added it did not get sufficient credit for its labors.

Members of the staff were wary about talking about their work but one of them likened the report itself as the top of the iceberg; beneath it, he explained, was the tremendous amount of work that has gone into 15 volumes of hearings, depositions and investigative reports, all of which will be made public.

Most of the staff members, one of them said, were used to working long hours but they all found work with the Commission to be particularly intense and hectic as the deadlines for the report neared.

70 to 80 Hours a Week

"Hours were long, frequently up to 70 and 80 hours a week with no days off," one of them said and added that some of them weren't able to be with their families for days at a stretch.

The staff wrote much of the report, except the recommendations and conclusions supplied by members of the Commission. The report has been praised for its easy and convincing reading. This has pleased staffers who said the report was written for the man in the street and not for lawyers, historians and political scientists.

The report was described as a cooperative writing effort of Commission members and the staff. Two of the staff members who did a tremendous

amount of work on it were Alfred Goldberg, senior historian of Air Force's Historical Division, and Arthur K. Marmor, an Air Force historian.

IRS Probers on Job

Edward A. Conroy and John J. O'Brien of Internal Revenue's inspection staff were two of the crack investigators assigned to the Commission. They were selected from IRS because members of the Commission wanted independent investigators from an agency not involved in any way with the assassination.

J. Lee Rankin, who was Solicitor General during the Eisenhower Administration, was the Commission's chief counsel. He had 14 assistants. The Commission praised their "high professional qualifications... their wealth of legal and investigative experience and total dedication to the determination of the truth."

The assistants are: Francis W. H. Adams, former New York City police commissioner; Joseph A. Ball of Los Angeles, who practices and teaches criminal law; David W. Belin of Des Moines.

Other Assistants

Also, William T. Coleman Jr. of Philadelphia, a consultant to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Melvin A. Eisenberg of New York City; Burt W. Griffin of Cleveland; Leon D. Hubert Jr. of New Orleans, former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Tulane law professor; Albert E. Jenner of Chicago, vice chairman of the Joint Committee for the Effective Administration of Justice.

Also, Wesley J. Liebler of New York City; Norman Redlich, professor of New York University School of Law; W. David Slawson of Denver; Arlen Specter of Philadelphia, a former assistant city prosecutor there; Samuel A. Stern of Washington, former law clerk to Chief Justice Warren, and Howard P. Willens, who acted as liaison between the Commission and the Justice Department, in which he is Second Assistant in the Criminal Division.

Among the staff members were Phillip Barson, a CPA who formerly was a special agent with Internal Revenue; John Hart Ely, a law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren; Murray J. Lulicht of New York, a law clerk to the U.S. Court of Appeals there.

Richard M. Mosk, a law clerk in the Los Angeles Federal court; Stuart R. Polak, an assistant in Justice's Criminal Division; Alfreda Scobey, a law assistant in the Court of Appeals, Atlanta; Charles N. Shaffer and Lloyd L. Weinreb of Justice's Criminal Division.

The Commission had special thanks for the following lawyers, secretaries and clerks, most of whom were borrowed from Federal agencies:

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