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Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

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Date:

CPYRGHT Why the Delay?

We are inclined to agree with the New York Daily News' suggestion that Congress get rid of the Warren Commission to investigate President Kennedy's murder and set up a joint House-Senate investigation of its own.

The Warren Commission was hastily set up by President Johnson to investigate all aspects of the murder. Almost immediately Chief Justice Earl Warren let it be known that the investigation would probably take at least a year. An elaborate office has been set up in Washington. An attorney has been hired. The report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which is five volumes and presumably covers every known aspect of the case has been submitted to the Commission—and buried.

Meanwhile rumors and stories and articles on the murder are proliferating, clouding up the truth, casting doubt on the identity of the murderer and confusing the people. It has been reported that the FBI report did nail Lee Harvey Oswald as the murderer on his own initiative. But that is only a report. Is it true? What other facts have been brought to light? Why the delay in bringing the truth to the American people? Is it because the truth may be unpalatable to some people in high places, including Justice Warren?

It is legitimate to ask this question because the Commission has seemed ready to just stall and delay and bury the whole thing. It is ridiculous to claim that it will take a year to bring the facts to the American people. It is also dangerous to allow rumor and propaganda to obscure the truth.

We read an article in Reporter magazine that concludes that maybe Oswald was not the murderer, maybe somebody else in the building did it while he was just wandering around. Maybe so. The Communist newspaper the Worker has spread the view that Oswald might have been a U.S. agent while in the Soviet Union and implies that the FBI itself might even be involved.

The only way to lay these rumors to rest, to put an end to useless and vain speculation and propaganda is to get the true facts before the American people as soon as possible.

We have a right to know the facts. We have a right to have them presented to us in an unbiased and bipartisan manner. There are serious suspicions that the Warren commission will present a biased report partly because of Earl Warren's own proclivity for ideological rather than judicial opinions.

In addition it is doubtful that it is proper for the Chief Justice to head such a commission when he may be sitting in judgment himself on Oswald's assassin, Lloyd Ruby who is still to be tried.

The members of the commission are mostly men of integrity and ability. Rep. Hale Boggs, Sen. John Cooper, former CIA chief Allen Dulles, Rep. Gerald Ford, John J. McCloy and Sen. Richard Russell are by no means a stacked group likely to seek to mislead the public. We simply believe that this commission is the wrong kind of body to do the job, and its actions so far—or lack of them—seem to prove this.

The FBI report on the President's assassination should be made public as quickly as possible. A joint Senate-House committee should be set up to hold hearings and take evidence and prepare a report as similar committees have done in the past. The Warren Commission should be dissolved. Then the people of the United States can get the facts they deserve to have and ought to have.