

Other Editors**WRAL VIEWPOINT****The Warren Commission**

We cannot dismiss the nagging suspicion that some very deliberate foot-dragging is taking place in completing the work of the so-called Warren Commission which, in case your memory fails you, is the group appointed by President Johnson to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

It must be recalled that President Johnson promised a quick and thorough investigation, with a further pledge that the American people would promptly be advised of the findings of the investigation. Not many weeks had passed, however, when Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission, announced that some of the details might not be released in our life-

time. We cannot say that we are particularly surprised at this turn of events. In the first place, Chief Justice Warren seemed to us an incredibly improper choice as chairman of the group. In the second place, as Chief Justice of the United States, there is the distinct possibility that Warren may on day be called upon to sit in judgment of some aspect of the matter.

And finally, we recall the Chief Justice's intemperate outburst at the time the late President Kennedy's body lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Warren's mind was made up that day; he held no doubts as to who was responsible for the murder of the President. It turned

out, of course, that he was 100 per cent wrong; he had charged that "rightwing extremists" were due the blame. All evidence to date is that President Kennedy was killed by a "leftwing extremist."

But, all that aside, we cannot help pondering the question of who selected the chief investigator for the Warren Commission. His name is Norman Redlich, a law professor at New York University. Several efforts have been made to determine how Professor Redlich became a top staff assistant to the commission. The chief counsel for the commission, J. Lee Rankin, says he did not select Redlich. Rankin will not, however, say who did.

Our interest in Redlich lies mainly in the fact that he is a member of a 13-year-old Communist front organization known as the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee which has vowed to abolish the House Un-American Activities Com-

mittee and discredit the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Back in April, this organization took an ad in The New York Times to call attention to the 13th birthday of the outfit. In the advertisement, ironically enough, along with Professor Redlich's name, were the names of a number of people connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee which disbanded following the Kennedy assassination due to public exposure of its communist ties. And it is to be remembered that the man who shot the President, Lee Harvey Oswald, became a promoter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee long after the FBI had recommended that the group be declared subversive.

The entire history of the Warren Commission has been puzzling from beginning to now. The idea for such a commission was first publicly recommended by the official communist newspaper, The Communist

Worker, a few days before President Johnson announced the appointment of the commission. Chief Justice Warren at first decided to hold open sessions of the commission, and indeed one open session was held. Then Mr. Warren reversed himself and the doors have been shut ever since.

We draw no particular conclusions from the set of curious circumstances surrounding the establishment of the commission, or its methods of operation since. But we confess a certain amount of discomfort in the fact that Professor Redlich continues as the top investigator for the commission, particularly in the light of the Professor's leanings and affiliations. Also, it is somewhat disconcerting that nobody seems willing to take the responsibility for Professor Redlich's appointment. Maybe that, too, is something not to be revealed in our lifetime.

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