

Congress Passes Bill Giving Warren Commission Special Subpoena Power; General Counsel Named

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House passed and sent to President Johnson today a bill giving special subpoena power to the blue ribbon commission named to investigate the Kennedy assassination.

Congressional action on the subpoena measure was completed shortly after it was announced that former U.S. Solicitor General J. Lee Rankin would serve as general counsel for the inquiry.

Like the Senate Monday, the House quickly passed the legislation with virtually no debate. It arms the seven-member commission with the power to subpoena both witnesses and evidence.

The measure would also afford immunity to any witness who feared to testify because of possible self-incrimination. Thus, witnesses would not be

able to cite the 5th Amendment to the Constitution as a reason for refusing to testify. At the same time they would be guaranteed against future prosecution for what they told the commission unless they committed perjury.

Persons failing to comply with a subpoena could eventually be held in contempt of court by a U.S. district judge.

Rankin's selection was announced by Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission.

The announcement described Rankin as a "distinguished lawyer." It said he has accepted the appointment and "is now in the performance of his duties."

One of the immediate tasks of the commission is a study of a formal FBI report which was said to establish that Lee Har-

vey Oswald, alone and unaided, fired the shots that killed the President in Dallas on Nov. 22.

A commission spokesman said that a summary of report was delivered to the commission Monday afternoon.

"It consists of five volumes of summary and exhibits," the announcement said. "No further announcement will be made concerning the report until the commission has had an opportunity to review it. A preliminary statement will thereafter be made public."

The announcement said it has not been determined when the commission will hold its next meeting. It has met twice.

Rankin, 56, is a native of Hartington, Neb. He practiced law in Lincoln from 1931 to 1953. He headed the office of legal counsel of the Justice Department from 1953 to 1956 and

then served as solicitor general until 1961, when the Kennedy administration began.

Since leaving the government, Rankin has practiced law in New York.

George Howe At Navy Base

George C. Howe, son of State Rep. and Mrs. Carol Howe, is in basic training in San Diego with the Navy where he has been since enlisting Nov. 15. His name was recently included with draftees.

George, a science major, worked in the paleontology laboratory at the University of Oregon, where he spent three years before going into the service.



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