JFK Assassination Panel to Reveal Findings on Sunday

WASHINGTON (AP) — House assassinations committee members, their long investigation nearly complete, say they will announce by Sunday whether they believe John F. Kennedy's murder was a conspiracy.

The committee met in closed session Friday night to vote on final conclusions of its two-year, $5.8 million investigation into the assassinations of Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

QUESTIONS REMAIN

The private meeting came after a day-long public hearing at which acoustics experts said there is a 95 percent or better chance that Kennedy was killed in a crossfire by two riflemen.

"If there is a conspiracy, then where do you look?" Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., said Friday night. "These are questions we are dealing with tonight."

An early draft of the committee's final report said it could not rule out the possibility of an organized crime conspiracy although it cited no specific evidence of one.

Preyer and other members of the panel said they were impressed with the testimony by acoustics experts, but refused to say whether they concluded there definitely was a conspiracy to kill the president.

They approved a resolution binding themselves not to divulge details until a formal announcement is made later today or Sunday, when Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, the committee chairman, appears on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation."

One of the acoustics experts who testified Friday, Dr. Mark Weiss, said that the 95 percent odds amount to evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt" that a second gunman fired at Kennedy from a grassy knoll in Dallas in 1963.

MISSED ENTIRELY

But G. Robert Blakey, the panel's chief counsel, said other committee experts are convinced that if there was a second gunman he missed Kennedy entirely because both shots that hit the president were fired from Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle.

The Warren Commission concluded more than a decade ago that Oswald, acting alone and firing from a building behind the president, was Kennedy's lone assassin.

But Weiss and his assistant, Ernest Aschenasy, said waves from a sound on a recording of a motorcycle policeman's radio match up better than 95 percent with a test rifle shot fired last August from a grassy knoll in front of where Kennedy's limousine stood at the time the president was shot.

MODERN WITCHCRAFT?

They said 10 out of 12 reverberations off downtown buildings of the known rifle shot match nearly perfectly with sound waves on the recording made during the assassination when the policeman's microphone was open and recorded in police headquarters.

They said the statistical probability of a non-rifle sound matching a rifle shot that closely is less than 5 percent, making the odds it was a rifle better than 95 percent.

Preyer said his first reaction to the new acoustical detective work was "maybe this was a little more modern witchcraft."

"But I thought the testimony (Friday) was incontrovertible that this was a matter of basic principles — sound bouncing off walls," he said.

"There seems to be nothing arcane about it," Preyer said. "You simply figure it out mathematically." But, he added, "Maybe there is some major flaw we haven't found."

Stokes said in a closing statement that the new evidence, if accepted by the committee, "could point to a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy."

DEVELOPED EVIDENCE

And said Stokes "the committee has developed evidence of the outlines of a likely conspiracy in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

He referred to disputed testimony that a deceased St. Louis lawyer offered a $50,000 bounty for King's murder.

FORECAST



Ogden Standard-Examiner

.91ST YEAR No. 364 ASSOCIATED PRESS UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL UPI TELEPHOTO OGDEN, UTAH SATURDAY EVENING DEC. 30, 1978

TEMPERATURES

OGDEN: Lows tonight zero to 10 above; highs Sunday in the low 20s.

UTAH: Lows the south 10 to 25; Sunday's highs in the north 15 to 25; Sunday's highs in the south 35 to 45.

20c DAILY 35c SUNDAY



LONG AND SNOWY WAIT UNTIL SPRING

With the new year almost here, can spring be far behind? Renee Robbins, 13, of Huntsville tries a swing in the park, despite that snow covers the ground and temperatures are mighty chilly. Although December is almost gone, long months of nippy weather remain ahead before green grass and flowers join the children under a warming sun once again.

Shah May Depart Iran on Vacation

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi may leave Iran on a "routine annual winter vacation" if an opposition political leader is successful in forming a new civilian government to restore order in this strife-torn country, palace sources said today.

But the sources, who asked not to be named, insisted the shah will not relinquish his throne despite the wave of strikes and street disorders that have crippled Iran's economy.

The shah asked Shapour Bakhtiar, 63, the No. 2 man in the opposition National Front, to form a new civilian government to replace the present military regime.

DECLINED TO SPECULATE

The sources said the shah might leave after the proposed new civilian government begins work but declined to speculate on the political ramifications of the shah's temporary departure. Several politicians have said the shah's absence would help the country cool down after months of anti-shah rioting and lend credibility to the proposed new civilian administration.

The sources said that under the plan being discussed the shah would not be required to give up his Peacock Throne. The shah might appoint a regency council to run the country and his 413,000-man army while he is away, sources said.

Bakhtiar met today with associates in an effort to put together a government by Sunday. Political sources said that under terms of a deal with Bakhtiar, the shah would continue as monarch but his powers would be limited. Palace sources said Friday that Bakhtiar would be named prime minister only if he could form a Cabinet acceptable to the monarch.

VISITORS ARRIVED

A steady stream of visitors went to Bakhtiar's walled villa in a fashionable Tehran neighborhood today. Aides said he was working on a list of ministers and was consulting with leaders of the National Front and other foes of the shah.

Heavier-than-usual military patrols swept the capital today as bands of chanting protesters roamed the streets, and automatic weapons fire could be heard. Witnesses said 40 to 50 protesters were injured in a clash with troops on Tehran's east side.

Opposition spokesmen said many demonstrators were killed in violence in the northeastern city of Mashhad, but the report could not be independently confirmed.

Armored cars stood guard today on most of the major streets of Tehran, and protesters set a car afire within two blocks of the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy.

Diplomatic observers said they doubted the shah would leave Iran soon, despite the fast-moving political developments.

MET WITH LEADERS

The shah met today with leaders of Parliament to discuss the proposal to form a new government, but no annoucement came out of the meeting.

One source at the palace said, "The shah will definitely be around until a new government is in power. If the situation was appropriate, he would go on his routine annual winter vacation."

Ardeshir Zahedi, Iran's ambassador to Washington who was called home because of the crisis, said the shah would not leave the country and that abdication was "out of the question."

NEWS ROUNDUP

U.S. First Family Will Face Busy Travel Schedule

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter faces a busy travel schedule in the first half of the new year, including a trip to China expected some time in late spring.

Sources said Friday Carter is expected to travel to China either before or after he attends an economic summit meeting in Tokyo, which itself has not been scheduled formally but is to be held in either May or June.

Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping is expected to invite the president to Peking formally during his state visit to the United States starting Jan. 29.

Celebrations of the new Chinese-American diplomatic breakthrough are scheduled New Year's Day at the U.S. Embassy in Peking and the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

BEGIN ON THURSDAY

The president returns to the White House that day from his holiday stay at Camp David, Md., but there was no immediate word on whether he would attend the embassy party.

Carter's travels in the new year start next Thursday when he flies to Guadeloupe for informal meetings with French President Giscard Valery d'Estaing, British Prime Minister James Callaghan and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

U.S. Carrier Moves Nearer to Gulf

MANILA, Philippines (UPI) — The aircraft carrier USS Constellation, summoned by U.S. authorities closely watching the volatile Iranian situation, steamed out of its Philippine base today to be closer

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Party Items Selling Big, Says Maker

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — For Party World, the party's never over. Noisemakers and multi-colored, pointy-topped hats are popular items, but if you want a grass skirt or a toga, step right up.

"People are giving parties more than ever," said Louis Melchiori, manager of Party World and Other Things — a store he claims sells "3,700 ingredients for a successful party."

Recently, Melchiori says, noisemakers, balloons, streamers and confetti have been hot items.

PATRIOTIC BUYING

But, he adds, "Next month you get the patriotic buying for Washington's Birthday ... veterans organizations, auto dealers ...."

New Year's, in fact, is not Melchiori's busiest season. That comes around June, with "weddings, first communions, confirmations and stag parties."

Then there are the red hearts for Valentine's Day in February, green shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day in March and orange jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween in October — the store's biggest single holiday.

But tradition sets no limits on the store's stock. Given a week's notice, Melchiori even can supply a toga party.

"Yeah, you get paper togas, sandals, and those Caesar hats," he said.

Also popular are Hawaiian parties, for which the store provides bamboo splints that function as skewers, leis, and a centerpiece model of dancing girls dressed in grass skirts.

WALL POSTERS, TOO

There also are wall posters of the Eiffel Tower for French parties, and of the Roman Colosseum for Italian-style get-togethers.

Melchiori said that during the last two weeks, the store has sold hats, horns and cups for more than 45,000 New Year's Eve revelers.

"There's nothing really new for New Year's," he said, "but the designs change constantly, because of TV."

ANOTHER BODY FIND

Illinois Murder Toll Rises to 28

DES PLAINES, Ill. (AP) — Loose dirt and the possibility of a trench drove investigators to search for more bodies under John Gacy Jr.'s suburban home, where the remains of 27 persons already have been found.

Another body has also been dragged from the Des Plaines River, bringing the total number of bodies connected with Gacy to 28.

Gacy, a convicted sex offender, reportedly told investigators earlier that 27 bodies were beneath the one-story house and five were in the river.

MORE MAY REMAIN

But after searchers ended work for the day Friday, Cook County medical examiner Dr. Robert Stein said there are signs of more bodies.

"There is loose dirt and what appears to be one trench along the south wall (of the home)," he said.

Stein and Edmund Dobbs, chief of the Cook County sheriff's police, said five of the six bodies found Friday were skeletons, while the sixth was "wellpreserved," and that authorities may be able to recover fingerprints for identification.

Stein and Dobbs said two silver chains and an "elephant hair bracelet" were uncovered with the bodies.

Gacy has been charged with murdering 15-year-old Robert Piest of Des Plaines, who disappeared Dec. 11. Gacy reportedly has said Piest's body is in the river.

At Gacy's pre-arraignment hearing Friday, Circuit Judge John White ordered Gacy, who was not in the courtroom, to undergo an examination to see if he is mentally fit to stand trial for murder.

White said the defendant was not in court because he feared for Gacy's safety. Police searched everyone entering the courtroom.

At the hearing, Sam Amirante, Gacy's lawyer, repeated that it would be impossible for his client to get a fair trial because of news stories and "leaks from the sheriff's department."

White later issued an order limiting the information officials could give news reporters.

The 36-year-old Gacy, who was convicted of sodomy in Iowa several years ago, reportedly has confessed to slaying 32 young men after having had sexual relations with them.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Frankie Acted Like Rat, Says Lauren

FLASHBACK: **Lauren Bacall** says she broke off an engagement to **Frank Sinatra** after he "behaved like a complete rat."

In her book, "Lauren Bacall by Myself," the actress says she and the singer were engaged after the death of her husband, **Humphrey Bogart**. When news of the impending marriage leaked out, Sinatra got cold feet and ignored her.

"Actually, Frank did me a great favor," she says in excerpts to be published in February's issue of Family Circle magazine. "He saved me from the disaster our marriage would have been."

The actress, now 53, said the only people who never disappointed her were her mother and Bogart: "I know now that Bogie was always right about everything — infuriatingly so. He and my mother never failed me ... and my feelings for them have never altered."

COURT RULING: The former wife of **Sen. Edward Brooke** has been barred from disposing of nearly $25,000 from her mother's estate.

The action Friday by Middlesex County Probate **Judge Lawrence Perara** prevents **Remigia Brooke** from using the bank deposits of her late mother, Teresa Ferrari-Scacco. The injunction was sought by Mrs. Brooke's brother and sister, **Joseph Ferrari-Scacco** of Newton, Mass. and **Mina Jones** of Tacoma, Wash.

Brooke, a Massachusetts Republican who handled Mrs. Ferrari-Scacco's finances, has asked the court to rule on distribution of the funds. The senator and his wife were divorced this year. He subsequently lost a bid for re-election.

IN CHARGE: And now, here's Johnny "The Banker" Carson.

Tonight Show host **Johnny Carson** and three other investors have acquired control of the Garden State Bank in suburban Hawaiian Gardens, bank **President Stanley Hogshead** says. Carson, who is now co-chairman, and his partners took over the bank with an investment of about $1.6 million last October, Hogshead said.

The bank has assets of about $12 million, not so much more than Carson makes a year.

AILING: **Rudolf Hess**, once deputy to **Adolph Hitler**, has been hospitalized because of a circulatory ailment, a British spokesman said in London.

The 84-year-old Hess is serving a life prison sentence for Nazi war crimes at Spandau Prison in West Berlin. He is the last inmate at the prison, and has been there since he was convicted by the Nuremberg Tribunal in 1946.

Hospital Costs For Medicare Patient Upped

WASHINGTON (AP) — patients who are hospitalized during 1979 will have to pay slightly more of their own costs before the government steps in to pay their hospital bills.

The increase, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 1979, also raises the patient's share of so-called co-insurance for extended hospital stays or treatment in skilled nursing homes.

The deductible for Medicare patients will rise from $144 to $160, meaning the patient must pay $16 more for initial hospitalization before insurance takes over.

FIGURES DISCLOSED

Medicare patients who remain in the hospital for more than 60 days will be required to pay $40 a day for the 61st through 90th day, and $80 for each subsequent day of hospitalization.

This represents a $4-a-day increase during the third month of hospitalization and an $8 increase for stays over 90 days.

Medicare patients who go directly from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility must pay $20 a day toward their daily fee for each day after the 20th day of convalescence.

An estimated 27.3 million people, many of them over 65, are expected to be covered by Medicare hospital insurance during 1979, and the government will pay out about $20.6 billion for their care.

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