

J.E. Hoover's hysteria(?) 11/22/63; his errors and ignorance HW 3/17/92

In going over some of my "subject" files Dave Wrone made copies of 109060: 56, 57, 58 and 59, timed, all p.m., 2:21; 5:15; 1:43 and 4:01. Dave's chief interest was that before Hoover started dictating ~~this~~ one of these memos to his top brass, Serial 56⁹; He had concluded and told RFK that they had captured the assassin^{the} he said "we" had the man. The FBI^{it} did not have Oswald.

Not remembering why I'd made extra copies of the FBI records for duplicate filing I read them again. They have other importances. One is that Hoover was wrong about just about every fact he stated in the memos on what he had told RFK, James J. Rowley, Secret Service Director, and Norbert Schlei, Assistant Director, DJ Office of Legal Counsel. (Schlei was preparing proclamations apparently to cover every contingency.)

That he would say the thing he not only said but would make a record of them when he had to know first that he did not really know and second that at those early times he did not have to say anything as a matter of fact. He did say that he "thought" they had the man["] but nothing else is qualified in any way when one would think that normal care and prudence would have impelled him not to be so unequivocal and to indicate that it was too soon to be positive about any information he reported.

I think that he did what I'm sure he'd have disciplined a special agent for doing indicates that he was hysterical. We can only conjecture why. Two possibilities if not probabilities are that ^{he feared} his and the FBI's reputations¹ would suffer and that he would have been expected to have been able to prevent the assassination. (Which, had the assassin been Oswald, would have been true.)

He told Rowley that one of Rowley's agents had been killed.

He had the shots ^{from} for the 4th and 5th floors but not from the 6th. and by a Winchester rifle, with Winchester shells found, ^{the rifle found on the 5th floor.}

Rowley believed the assassination was by Cuban and Mexican "extremists."

Hoover believed the Klan, the FPCC (Oswald was a "nut" of the extreme pro-Castro crowd"); and Hoover said that "all assassins" are anarchists or Communists.

Hoover and Schlei ^{D. Schlei} referred repeatedly to assassins in the plural, or said there had been a conspiracy. ^{from} ~~He~~ ^{from} did not use the word through

He said that two blocks ^{from} for the TSBD Oswald had shot at two cops, killing one.

He said that the TSBD was "filled with people watching the parade."

He said that for several days the FBI had been getting reports of threats against JFK from Western Union.

He reported what could be taken as ^{an advance} phone conversation about the assassination overheard by a Woodner apartments phone operator. I recall no records reflecting this.

If the FBI had gotten reports of threat from WU I recall nothing in its or the Commission's records indicating it reported them to the Commission.

The memos reflect ignorance and very poor judgement is ^{not} also hysteria.