

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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HAROLD WEISBERG, :

Plaintiff, :

v. :

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, :

Defendant. :

Civil Action No. 2052-73
----- x

STATE OF NEW YORK)

COUNTY OF NEW YORK) ss.:

CITY OF NEW YORK)

I, J. LEE RANKIN, living at 35 Sutton Place, New York,
New York, do hereby solemnly swear:

1. From December 8, 1963, I served as General Counsel of
the President's Commission on the Assassination of President
Kennedy (Warren Commission).

2. Shortly after I had assumed the duties of General
Counsel of the Commission, I was instructed by the Commission
that among my duties was the responsibility to security classify
at appropriate levels of classification those records created by
the Commission in its investigation and report that should be
security classified under existing Executive order. The
Commission's authority to classify its records and its decision
to delegate that responsibility to me existed pursuant to
Executive Order 10501, as amended.

3. As agreed to by the Commission, I ordered that the transcripts of certain of the Commission executive sessions, including that of January 27, 1964, be classified "Top Secret," and I communicated the fact of said classification to Ward & Paul, transcribers of the executive sessions (see attached copies of correspondence between Ward & Paul and me).

I have read the above statement, consisting of two pages, and it is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the information I have given is not to be considered confidential and that it may be shown to the interested parties.

/s/ J. LEE RANKIN

J. LEE RANKIN

Subscribed and sworn to before me
at New York, New York
on this 8th day of April, 1974.

PAUL F. CIRILLO
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 30588750
Qualified in Nassau County
Cert. Filed with the New York Co. Clerk
Commission Expires March 30, 1976

*PC 8
L. Rankin, J. M.*

JLR/jta

December 21, 1964

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator, General Services
Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Boutin:

Pursuant to Executive Order 11171 of November 29, 1963, the Members of the President's Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President Kennedy, at a meeting of the Commission on December 6, 1963, agreed to solicit the services of J. Leo Rankin as General Counsel for the Commission. Mr. Rankin officially accepted the appointment on December 8, 1963.

Sincerely,

Chairman

WARD & PAUL
SHORTHAND REPORTERS
917 G STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 1, D. C.
622-4266

JESSE L. WARD
ALFRED C. PAUL
(1922-1962)

JESSE L. WARD, JR.

OFFICIAL REPORTERS FOR
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

January 7, 1964

Hon. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel,
Presidential Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy,
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.,
Washington, D. C. 20002.

Dear Sir:

Re: Stenographic Reporting

Pursuant to our conversation of yesterday, in which a general outline of reporting services and needs was discussed, and at which time you asked for a statement of prices for work performed, I am happy to submit the following schedule of charges:

Original and two copies	\$1.65 per page	(Total)
4th copy	.15 per page	\$ 1.80
5th copy	.15 per page	1.95
6th copy	.15 per page	2.10
7th copy	.15 per page	2.25
8th copy	.15 per page	2.40
9th copy	.10 per page	2.50
10th to 20th copies	.05 per page	3.05
21st to 25th copies	.02 per page	3.15

The first eight copies are at the current Congressional rate for closed sessions, no sales permitted; the ninth and succeeding copies reflect a multiple copy rate with decreasing costs due to higher production of copies.

It is contemplated that the reporting services will be performed in Washington, D. C., and that transcription and duplication will be in the premises of Ward & Paul at the address given above. The work will be given Top Secret or Secret classification, so marked on each volume, volumes numbered in accordance with security regulations, and receipts obtained for material passing between the Commission and our firm. If desired, notes, waste paper and other materials will be delivered to the Commission daily, with the delivery of each transcript, or they can be retained by us, under security, and destroyed from time to time. I would suggest that all waste material be destroyed weekly, and the notes be turned over to the Commission at the end of each week, this for possible reexamination of any necessary page or phrase which might need it.

Page Two - Mr. Benkin,

All reporting will be done on a Daily Copy basis, that is, work reported on one day will be delivered by 9:00 a. m. the following day, unless there is a night session, in which case the portion reported during the day will be delivered as indicated, and the night session delivered during the following day.

Only personnel having the full necessary clearance will be used in any phase of handling the work of the Commission.

In event reporting services are needed outside of the City of Washington, we will be able to service the hearing with reporter and typist, prepared to deliver a minimum number of copies in the field, perhaps an original and one copy, and forward the necessary copy back to Washington for duplication and delivery to the Commission as early as possible. Travel and other such expenses will be borne by the Commission in this event, to be thoroughly vouchered by the personnel involved.

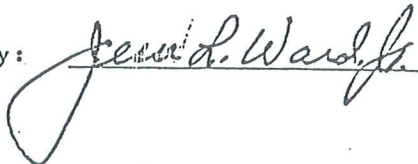
Please excuse this lengthy letter, but we feel that it is better to lay a proper groundwork for mutual understanding of the different phases of work involved.

Please allow me to thank you, sir, for the time you took to talk with me, and for your understanding of our problems. It is our hope that we may be chosen to serve the Commission, and that we may do so in a manner that will reflect credit on those who have been kind enough to suggest our firm for the work.

Respectfully submitted,

WARD & PAUL

By:



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t 1/7/64

JAN 8 1964

Mr. Jesse L. Ward, Jr.
Ward & Paul
917 G Street, N.W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 1964, setting forth the schedule of charges for your reporting service.

The arrangements set forth in your letter are satisfactory to me and I am confident that your organization will be of great assistance to this Commission. I would like you to handle the reporting of the meetings of the Commission as well as any hearings outside the city which may be held by the Commission. I shall advise you of the date of the next Commission meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you for your promptness in supplying me with this information.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

How
1/14/64
J.L.R.

JLR/ah

May 1, 1964

Herb and Paul
917 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Gentlemen

This is to inform you that as of this date all depositions and testimony handled by your firm for the Commission will be classified as confidential rather than top secret. The meetings of the Commission will continue to be classified top secret.

Very truly yours,

J. Lee Rankin /
General Counsel