
formation lawsuits and his testimony before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights of the Committee on Government Operations.

As the attorney for the defendant should recall, in Weisberg v. General Services Administration, Civil Action No. 2052-73, in which plaintiff sued for disclosure of the January 27, 1964, Warren Commission executive session transcript, D́r. Rhoads answered plain tiff's second interrogatory as follows:

> 2. The transcript was originally classified under the provisions of Executive Order lo501, as amended ( 3 CFR, 1949-1953 Comp.) It is' presently classified under the provisions of Executive Order 11652.

Dr. Rhoads' swore that this answer was made "upon his personal knowledge and belief". [See attached Exhibit H, which contains both the questions and the answers to plaintiff's first set of interrogatories in Civil Action 2052-73]

However, in his November 11, 1975, testimony before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, Dr. Rhoads testified that he had "assumed" that the January 27 transcript had been classified under the authority of Executive Order 10501. [See pp. 71 and 80 of hearing transcript, attached hereto as part of Exhibit I] As Mr. Steven Garfinkel, Counsel, Office of the General Counsel of the General Services Administration put it at that same hearing:

## It also appears from the record that the

 President, and of course, his advisers, were the perpetrators of an oversight in that they never made a specific amendment to Executive Order 10501, which was in effect at that time, to include the Warren Commission among those agencies that had original classifying authority. [Hearing transcript, p. 69, a copy. of which is attached hereto as part of Exhibit I]In short, Dr. Rhoads, according to his own testimony, simply "assumed" what he swore he personally knew was true, and what he

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swore to be true turns out to have had no basis in fact whatsoever.
plaintiff also wishes to call attention to the testimony of Mr. David Belin, formerly Asṣistant Counsel to the Warren Commission, at the November 11, 1975, hearing before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights. There Mr. Belin testified that nearly everything the Warren Commission had was marked "Top. Secret", even though "most of the matters before the Commission really had nothing to do with what you would ordinarily think of as Top Secret information"; that he did not know of any independent classifying authority that the Warren Commission had; that the court reporting firm of Ward \& Paul marked the Warren Commission transcripts "Top Secret" but that he did not know upon what authority they did so; and that "It was a standard joke within the members of the staff that we were having access to documents that were marked Top Secret at a time when none of us had security clearances." [See pp. 5-9 of the hearing transcript, copies of which are attached hereto as part of Exhibit. I]

Finally, plaintiff notes that defendant's motion for an extension of time speaks of filing an affidavit on this question of Dr. Rhoads' credibility. Plaintiff welcomes such an affidavit. However, plaintiff also notes that on February 27, 1975, he filed a request for the production of documents which asked; among other things, for a copy of the November 5, 1975, affidavit of Mr. Charles A. Briggs, Chief of Services Staff, Directorate of Operations, Central Intelligence Agency, which is referred to in the answer to plaintiff's interrogatory No. 25. Although this affidavit is presumably relevant to this case and is presumably not classified, plaintiff has not yet been provided a copy of it. Plaintiff would appreciate a copy of it at the government's earliest possible convenience.


## PLATATIFF'S IRMERROGATORTES

Under Rule 33 of the Federal Fules of Givil Procedure, Plaintiff addresses the following interrogatories to the Defendant:

1. Is there any Executive Order which specificelly requires the transcript of the January 27, 1964, Warren Conmission Executive Session to be kept secret in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy?
2. What is the number of any Executive Order cited in response to Plaintiff's interrogatory :io. 1?
3. On what date was any Executive Order cited in response to Plaintiff's Interrogatory No. I published in the Federal Register?
4. Has any Attorney General of the United States ever made a determination that it is not in the national interest to disclose the transcript of any Warren Commission Executive Session or the report of any interview or scientific test made by or for the Federal Bureau of Investigation during its investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?
5. If the answer to Plaintiff's interrogatory No. 4 is yes, when and by whom was this determination made?


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6. Is the January 27 transcript boine withhold from research on the grounds that it is part of an investigatory file compiled for law enforcement purposes?
7. If the answer to Plaintiff's interrogatory Ho. $6.1 s$ jes, what is the specific law enforcenent purpone for which the January 27 transcript is beinf withheld?
8. Have any court proceedings been initiated relevant to any law enforcement purpose cited in response to Plaintifis's interrogatory No. 7 ?
9. If the answer to Plaintiff's interrogatory lio. 8 is yes, what are the titles of these court cases and in what courts were they initiated?
10. Are any future court proceedings contemplated with respect to any law enforcement purpose cited in responce to Plaintiff's interrogatory No. 7?
11. With respect to any court procredings cited in response to Plaintiff's interrogatories io. 8 and $: 10$. 10 , what hara or prejudice would the governent suffer if tho danuary 27 transcript vere to be disclosed to Plaintipf lieisberg?
12. Has the disclosure of parts of the Junuary 27 transeript by Representative Gerald Ford harmed the covernment in any of the court proceedings cited in response to 1 laintipi's interrogatory No. 8?
13. Has the disclosure of parts of the januery 27 transcript by Representative Gerald Ford prejudiced any future court proceedings cited in response to Plaintiff's interroathory Ho. 10 ?
14. If Representative Gerald Ford'b dinclopure of parts of the January 27 transcript has harmed the fovernment in any law enforcement proceeding cited in response to pladnticís interrogatories No. 8 or No. 10, what is the nature of that hara?
15. Has the Department of Justice or the General Services Administration recommended that any action be taken against Representative Gerald Ford for publicly disclosing parts of the Janaury 27, 1964, transcript stated by the General Services Administration to be classified?
16. Has the Department of Justice or the General Services Administration communicated to the Senate Rules Committee or any other congressional committee the fact that Representative Gerald Ford publicly disciosed parts of the purportedly classified January 27 transcript?
17. Has the Department of Justice or the General Services Administration recommended that. any action be taken against Representative Gerald Ford for testifying that he did not reveal any classiifed information in his book portrait of the Assassin?
18. Was the January 27 transcript ever given to any law enforcement officer of the State of Teasa, including:
a) Dallas County District Attorney Eenry Fade?
b) Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr?
c) Special Assistant to the Texas Attorney General Leon Jaworski?
19. Was the Janaury 27 transcript ever given to any court or law enforcement agency in the Sta.te of Texas?
20. Was the Janaury 27 transcript ever given to any federal agency, including, but not limited to, the following:
a) The Central Intelligence Agency?
b) The Federal Bureau of Investigation?
c) The Office of Naval Intelligence?
d) The Defense Intelligence Agency?
e) The National Security Agency?



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CIVII ACIION NO. 2052-73

UNITED STATES GENERAI SERVICES ) ADMINISTRATION ) ADMUNISTRATION, Defendant

## ANSWERS TO INTERROGATORIES

JAMES B. RHOADS, Archivist of the United States, having been first. duly sworn, under oath, deposes and says that it is upon his personal knowledge and belief that he gives the following information in answer to interrogatories propounded by plaintiff:

1. Yes.
2. The transcript was originally classified under the provisions of Executive Order 10501, as amended (3CFR, 1949-1953 Comp.) It is presently classified under the provisions of Executive Order 11652.
3. 37 F.R. 5209, March 10, 1972.
4. Defendant objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that it is not relevant to the subject matter involved in the instant action, and divalgence of the information sought would be contrary to the jurisdictional requisites set forth at 5 USC 552.
5. Nat applicable (N/A) in light of previous answer.
6. The transcript is withheld as falling within certain exemptions. from mandatory disclosure cited at. 5 U.S.C. 552(3) (I970).
7. The Warren Commission was established under Executive Order and recognized by statute to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald.
8. The defendant is not aware of any such proceedings.
9. Not applicable (N/A) in light of previous answer.
10. The defendant is not aware of any contemplated future proceedings in this respect.
11. N/A
12. $N / \mathrm{A}$
13. N/A
14. N/A
15. Defendant objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that it is not relevant to the subject matter involved in the instant action. The General Services Administration has made no such recommendation.
16. Defendant objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that it is not relevant to the subject matter involved in the instant action. The General Services Administration has made no such recommendation.
17. Defendant objects to this interrogatory on the grounds that it is not relevant to the subject matter involved in the instant action. The General Services Administration has made no such recommendation.
18. No.
19. No.
20. The only Federal agencies which have examined a copy of the transcript other than the defendant General Services Administration are the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
21. Mr. Vawter's comment to "recent developments in the state of the law' in his letter of February 8, 1972, merely refers to an examination of newly issued judicial decisions on the Freedom of Information Act and the anticipated issuance of Executive Order llós2.


Subscribed and sworn to me before this $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ , 1974. My Commission expires the $3 j^{26}$. day of 4 \& $1974 \because$

## EXHIBIT I

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It aIso appears Prom the record that the Prestdent, and
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