

Memorandum

TO : Carl W. Belcher, Chief
General Crimes Section
Criminal Division

DATE: April ²⁸~~29~~, 1975
JRR:jaj
129-11

FROM : James R. Robinson, Attorney
General Crimes Section
Criminal Division

fall

SUBJECT: Warren Commission Reports

In response to your inquiry on source of form responses to inquiries on the above subject, I checked with Louis Rigdon. He is using formats furnished him by Bill Black some years ago but on his own has added the paragraph on recent FBI review, based on news reports.

disting wishes between TP & panel

W. to T. today
I spoke to Carl Eardley. He did head a task force for AG Clark. In light of critical comments of Mark Lane and others, the task force reviewed all of the evidence and a panel of distinguished forensic scientists reviewed the physical evidence. The task force reported that the review indicated substantial correctness of the Commission findings. Carl said in the main the critics depended on isolated bits of evidence to create a warped view, ignoring other weighty evidence which in totality supported the Commission findings.

The task force was an (ad hoc) group involving people from several Divisions and Carl said he had no continuing responsibilities in the matter to turn over on his retirement. He had personally conducted defense of Garrison's suit to obtain access to the Commission materials, but that related to the question of access rather than the merits of the Commission Report. He said Sol Lindenbaum was privy to the task force operation and would be the best source for information on it now.

call Sol

Attached is a copy of our memo to Civil on the access issue.

FBI (John Harrington in Mintz's absence) said they have done a limited amount of inquiry in response to the allegations that

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Hunt was in Dallas on the fatal day. Photo measurements etc. rebut the allegation. Harrington was not aware of any responsible move to reopen the investigation itself.

As Director Kelley has gone public with his views on the merits, I suggest we keep him up front on the basis of the views with respect to any responsible move to "reopen." Only if and when any new evidence is developed is there a basis for any action by us and then only after review of the developed material. This seems to me a more likely angle to avoid involvement than reliance on Eardley's activities as a basis for trying to put responsibility on Civil for both access and the merits. Harrington will send a copy of the reports of Kelley's remarks. They don't go quite as far as Louis Rigdon represents them as going. This itself is good reason to put all of this in FBI unless and until they develop something of substance.

Attached is a memo which will, if sent and agreed to by FBI, get us started on the "see Kelley" routine. Louis Rigdon said it was fine with him. Though as usual, "not for the record," Gordon Malmfelt (FBI - correspondence) saw no problems in the proposal.