

this area right here.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is the ulnar portion?

Mr. Mandella. Pardon.

Mr. Eisenberg. Is that some times called the ulna<sup>✓</sup> portion?

Mr. Mandella. Yes the ulna<sup>✓</sup> side, or the small bone side,  
yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Did you make any other identifications.

Mr. Mandella. Yes, I did.

Mr. Eisenberg. Could you give the next one, please?

Mr. Mandella. The photo marked "brown bag wrapping paper"  
Exhibit No. --

Mr. Eisenberg. That is Exhibit 659, and that exhibit con-  
tains two photographs which I now hand you which are marked 659-A  
and 659-B.

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. And did you identify the prints in those  
photographs?

Mr. Mandella. Yes. On photograph No. 1 --

Mr. Eisenberg. Could you refer to the print on the back,  
659-A or B?

Mr. Mandella. On 659-B, as I called it photo 1, is the No.  
7 finger which is the left index finger of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Eisenberg. And do you have a note on the back of that  
picture?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, I do.

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Mr. Eisenberg. Can you read us that?

Mr. Mandella. "Left index Oswald brown bag wrapping paper."

Mr. Eisenberg. And that is in your handwriting.

Mr. Mandella. Yes, it is.

Mr. Eisenberg. Can you say what portion of the left index finger of Lee Harvey Oswald that is?

Mr. Mandella. It is the bulb of the finger, a little to the right.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is my bulb you mean the central portion of the distal phalanx?

Mr. Mandella. The central portion to the right.

Mr. Eisenberg. Is that the phalanx?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, the flesh joint, yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. And 659-A?

Mr. Mandella. Commission Exhibit 659-A as I call it photo No. 2 is a palm print and I identified this as the right side of the right palm of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Eisenberg. The right side would again be the ulna<sup>N</sup>?

Mr. Mandella. It would be the ulna<sup>N</sup> side, yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. The little finger side.

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. That also has writing on the back of it does it.

Mr. Mandella. Yes, it does.

Mr. Eisenberg. Can you read that to us.

Mr. Mandella. "Right palm Oswald brown bag wrapping paper."

Mr. Eisenberg. And that is in your own handwriting?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, it is.

Mr. Eisenberg. Was there any hand writing when you got any of these prints by the way?

Mr. Mandella. No there wasn't.

Mr. Eisenberg. All the prints were blank on the reverse side?

Mr. Mandella. They were blank on the reverse side. The handwriting within the photographs but not --

Mr. Eisenberg. That is on the face of the photographs.

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Would you proceed, Mr. Mandella.

Mr. Mandella. Box A, photo No. 25.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is Commission Exhibit 656, and I will hand you photo No. 25.

Mr. Mandella. What was that number, 656?

Numbers 25 and 34.

Mr. Eisenberg. I now hand you Numbers 25 and 34. Could you identify No. 25 first Mr. Mandella?

Mr. Mandella. No. 25, Commission Exhibit No. 655 contains three identifiable fingerprints, one of which located in the center in a whorl type pattern, is the No. 2 finger or the right index finger of Lee Harvey Oswald. The fingerprint on the right

and the left do not belong to Lee Harvey Oswald but the one in the center, the whorl type pattern, is his No. 2 finger.

Mr. Eisenberg. Which is what now again, the hand index finger.

Mr. Mandella. The No. 2 finger which is the right index finger and and against the first joint, the bulb of the finger.

Mr. Eisenberg. The bulb of the distal phalanx?

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Of the right index finger?

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Dulles. For clarity where were these taken? What were these taken from

Mr. Eisenberg. This was taken from box A.

Mr. Dulles. Box A?

Mr. Eisenberg. Which I believe is a 10 roll reader carton. Is there printing or handwriting on the back of that photograph 25?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, there is.

Mr. Eisenberg. Could you read it to us?

Mr. Mandella. "Center impression No. 2 finger Oswald from box A photo latent on left unidentified. Photo Nos. 25 and 27 identical. Negative with Oswald unidentified."

Mr. Eisenberg. Negative with Oswald are you referring now to two of the three photographs, two and three prints appearing on the photograph?

Mr. Mandella. That is right, two prints, exactly, the one in



the center of course I am not in reference to the one in the center, which is his. The two on the right and left are unidentified.

Mr. Eisenberg. And No. 34, Mr. Mandella?

Mr. Mandella. No. 34, Commission Exhibit 656 is a palm print from the left palm of Lee Harvey Oswald, the left palm section of course the ulna<sup>✓</sup> side again of the left side of the left palm.

Mr. Eisenberg. And do you have a note on the back of that?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, I do. "Oswald's left palm left side."

Mr. Eisenberg. And that again is in your own handwriting is it Mr. Mandella?

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Any other identifications?

Mr. Mandella. Yes. There is one more on box D, photo No. 13.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is Exhibit 655 which contains two photographs, and I will extract the photograph labeled 13.

Mr. Mandella. Commission Exhibit 655 photo No. 13, the right palm print of Lee Harvey Oswald. The section here is at the heel of the palm in the center.

Mr. Eisenberg. In the center of the palm.

Mr. Mandella. Yes, sir.

Mr. Eisenberg. You were just pointing to the lower portion of the palm which you refer to as the heel?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, this is the portion of Oswald's palm.

Mr. Eisenberg. Is there handwriting or printing on the back of that photograph?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, there is. "Right palm Oswald heel of hand."

Mr. Eisenberg. And that is your handwriting is it Mr. Mandella?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, it is.

Mr. Eisenberg. So you made a total of six identifications?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, I did.

Mr. Eisenberg. Now when you made these identifications or I should say when you received the photographs and when you made the identifications did you have any knowledge of any kind as to how many if any prints of Oswald's were found among the many impressions which were given to you?

Mr. Mandella. I had no idea, sir.

Mr. Eisenberg. Were you aware in any way of the conclusions of any other body concerning these impressions.

Mr. Mandella. I knew nothing about any examination by anyone.

Mr. Eisenberg. At an unofficial level had you seen anything in the newspapers which would indicate any information on these?

Mr. Mandella. In the newspaper several months ago there was reference to a -- I don't even recall whether it was fingerprints or palm prints or both but there was some reference in the newspaper I had seen and that is all.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is all you recall about it?

Mr. Mandella. That is all I recall.

Mr. Eisenberg. Did you pay any attention to that in making your identifications?

Mr. Mandella. No, it didn't effect me at all, nothing to do with the identifications.

Mr. Eisenberg. What is your general attitude toward items you see like this in the newspapers by the way?

Mr. Mandella. In the newspapers? It doesn't mean a thing. Attitude relative to fingerprints?

Mr. Eisenberg. I am trying to determine how far this might influence you in your evaluation and I wonder as a police officer what your opinion is when you read accounts in newspapers of evidence in crimes.

Mr. Mandella. No, it doesn't effect me other than for general information purposes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Did I transmit to you any information whatsoever concerning these prints?

Mr. Mandella. You did not other than giving me the photographs.

Mr. Eisenberg. Did I tell you that any of these prints might be Lee Harvey Oswald's?

Mr. Mandella. You made no indication as to that it could have been his.

Mr. Eisenberg. Do you know now apart from your own identification, have you acquired any information at this point so

that subsequent to your information identification but prior to your appearance here as to these prints other than your own identifications.

Mr. Mandella. I have no knowledge as to what has been done with these prints at all by anyone.

Mr. Eisenberg. Are you absolutely sure as to each of these identifications, Mr. Mandella?

Mr. Mandella. I am positive.

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Mandella, are you familiar with the contention of some persons that 12 points are needed for identification of finger or palm prints?

Mr. Mandella. No I am not, no. Positive identification are effected by the expert himself. 12 points are not necessary. A sufficient amount determined by the expert is the important factor.

Mr. Dulles. About how many? Have you any test as to how many points?

Mr. Mandella. I can't give a definite number but I'd say in generalities five or six or seven points certainly should be enough, depending on their uniqueness and frequency.

Mr. Eisenberg. What is the lowest number to which you have testified in court, Mr. Mandella.

Mr. Mandella. The lowest that I can recall I testified to, five points.

Mr. Eisenberg. Was there a conviction secured in that case?



Mr. Mandella. Yes, there was.

Of course I don't recall if the fingerprint was the thing that caused the conviction but it was part of the testimony

Mr. Dulles. In most of these cases where you have made an identification, have there been more than five points of identity?

Mr. Mandella. Well, it seems to run between, somewhere between 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and in some cases more. It depends on how much of the finger or palm that you have, how many characteristics are contained in that area.

Mr. Dulles. My question was directed to the specific prints that you have, photographs of prints that you have examined.

Mr. Mandella. Yes. It usually verges on 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Mr. Dulles. In the cases of these identifications that you have made?

Mr. Mandella. Oh, no. Some we have many more characteristics in some of these identifications here today.

Mr. Eisenberg. I think Commissioner Dulles is referring to cases previous to this.

Mr. Dulles. I was referring to both. First I was asking you in general how many do you consider are necessary, and secondly how many did you find in these particular cases that you have examined in the Oswald case?

Mr. Mandella. Oh. Would you like me to --

Mr. Eisenberg. Do you have that information?

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. Fine.

Mr. Mandella. Of course these characteristics that I point out are the ones that I see and in some cases there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ a few more, but these are the ones that are very definite and outstanding.

On the gun barrell, I forget the Commission's Exhibit no., there was 11 points of identity.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is 658.

Mr. Mandella. Commission's Exhibit 658. There <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ 11 points of identity on that particular palm print.

Mr. Dulles. That is exactly what I wanted.

Mr. Mandella. Yes. Now the brown wrapping paper bag Commission's Exhibit 659 --

Mr. Eisenberg. There is 659-A and B here. The one you have marked "left index Oswald."

Mr. Mandella. Is that A?

Mr. Eisenberg. That is what I have marked B. That is Commission's Exhibit 659-B.

Mr. Mandella. Then No. 2, 659-A is the palm print.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is marked right palm print.

Mr. Mandella. Right palm and there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ 18 points, 18 characteristics that are very outstanding and in this case possibly more too.

Now in Commission's Exhibit 659-B.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is marked left index Oswald.

Mr. Mandella. It is the left index finger Lee Harvey Oswald there <sup>are</sup> 11 points of identity and possibly a few more. In Commission's Exhibit 656 which is the No. 2 finger or the right index finger of Lee Harvey Oswald, there is 11 points, that is the whorl type pattern.

Mr. Eisenberg. Excuse me a second Mr. Mandella. That is No. 25 center impression, marked by you center index No. 2 finger Oswald, is that correct?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, that is correct. And there <sup>are</sup> 11 points of identity or characteristic.

Mr. Eisenberg. No. 34.

Mr. Mandella. No. 34, the palm print.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is marked by you Oswald left palm print left side.

Mr. Dulles. Palm print on the box is it?

Mr. Eisenberg. Yes, box A.

Mr. Dulles. Box A?

Mr. Mandella. Yes. 12 points of identity I found on that particular exhibit.

Mr. Eisenberg. Can you check your notes on that?

Mr. Mandella. I can explain this. On the reverse side I have 13 to 16 points.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is the reverse side of number --

Mr. Mandella. It is the reverse side of Commission's Exhibit

656. However, after going over this and looking at it again I found several more. Of course in this case it is still more than 18. But 18 that can be readily seen and recognized. And then Commission Exhibit finally --

Mr. Eisenberg. 655.

Mr. Mandella. 655.

Mr. Eisenberg. Box D.

Mr. Mandella. Photo No. 13, the right palm print of Oswald, and there <sup>are</sup> 8 points of identity on that one.

Mr. Dulles. Thank you.

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Mandella, do you have any opinion concerning the ability to determine the freshness of a fingerprint?

Mr. Mandella. It is very difficult to tell. However, you can determine if it was left within say a few days, but certainly you can't pinpoint it. You can't say it was there so many hours or so many days. How many days I don't know, but in the developing of fingerprints we will say on an ashtray on this Commission desk here, if we just touch it now as opposed to a fingerprint being left there several days ago, the impression that we recently left as we applied powder to it to bring it about would naturally come out sooner because of the freshness of the oils on our fingers.

The others would come out, if we kept processing or powdering it with a brush, They would later come out too. So this is the only indication to me then that the first ones that appear then were recently left. And in this you can't even say



this definitely either. It is very difficult because at certain times it could be a little more oil on someone's fingers and this could last longer and appear to be fresher. So it is very difficult to tell positively.

Mr. Eisenberg. What you are describing is freshness, relative freshness between one print and another rather than absolute freshness of any given print?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, that is true.

Mr. Eisenberg. Now I give you Commission Exhibit 139 which is a rifle, and ask you whether you think if you developed a print on a steel portion of the rifle you could testify as to whether this is a fresh or a stale print?

Mr. Mandella. No, I couldn't tell. I couldn't tell especially on steel or on wood here whether it is fresh or not. By itself of course too with nothing around it you couldn't tell. It is impossible as a matter of fact.

Mr. Eisenberg. I hand you Commission Exhibit No. 649 which consists of a piece torn off of a cardboard type of box, and appearing on that is a powder impression under a tape of which you have seen actually a photograph, Mr. Mandella.

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. If you had developed that impression, do you think you would testify as to relative freshness?

Mr. Mandella. In this case with this cardboard in my own experience I assume the medium used here is powder.

Mr. Eisenberg. Yes, I believe so.

Mr. Mandella. To develop it. If it comes out this fresh, I would have to assume that it was left there recently. But how recently I can't pinpoint that.

Mr. Eisenberg. Within three days?

MR. Mandella. Oh, definitely I would say within three days.

Mr. Eisenberg. Within two days?

Mr. Mandella. Yes, I would say within about a day, a day and a half, because the cardboard is very porous and it would normally draw the oils, the perspiration, and it would disappear.

However, we do have an impression here with powder. That means that it was quite fresh, in my own opinion anyway.

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Mandella, I can see that you have taken notes, numerous notes on the fingerprints including those you didn't identify. I wonder whether we could introduce those as a Commission Exhibit rather than going through those one by one. Would you part with those. We could supply you with a copy later.

Lt. Mooney. I have the rough. It will only take us a couple minutes to --

Mr. Dulles. We would be very glad to give you a photograph copy of it.

Mr. Mandella. That is all I need. That is fine. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. You are handing me two pages and these contain

your original notes concerning the fingerprints?

Mr. Mandella. Yes.

Mr. Eisenberg. These contain your notes not only to the fingerprints you identified but those which you did not identify against a known print which you were given?

Mr. Mandella. That is right. There were quite a few fingerprints that didn't belong to Oswald. However, they belonged to one another.

Mr. Eisenberg. That is to say you found two prints which were identical to each other.

Mr. Mandella. That is right.

Mr. Eisenberg. Two latents which were identical to each other?

Mr. Mandella. That is right but to whom they belong I have no idea.

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Chairman, may I have these notes admitted as Commission's Exhibit 662?

Mr. Dulles. It shall be admitted as Exhibit 662.

(Commission's Exhibit No. 662 was marked for identification and received in evidence.)

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Mandella, is there anything you would like to add to your testimony here?

Mr. Mandella. Nothing other than what I already mentioned.

Mr. Eisenberg. I have no further questions.

Mr. Dulles. We thank you then Mr. Mandella, very much. I didn't catch your name.

Lt. Mooney. Lieutenant Mooney. Glad to have been of service.

Mr. Dulles. Would you please express to the Commissioner on behalf of the Chief Justice and the Commission our grateful thanks to you for the work that you have done and it is greatly appreciated, and also express on my own personal behalf -- I know the Commissioner -- my appreciation for the cooperation he has given to the Commission.

Lt. Mooney. Thank you sir. We are glad to have been of service.

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Chairman, may I say that these two gentlemen both interrupted their vacation to come here and they have been working practically night and day in order to meet with our time demands for testimony.

Mr. Dulles. We deeply appreciate that.

Mr. Mandella. Glad to have helped in any way.

Mr. Dulles. The Commission will stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 1:10 o'clock p.m., the Commission adjourned, to reconvene at 9:00 o'clock a.m., Friday, April 3, 1964.)



