

Mr. Belmont

8/18/64

A. Rosen

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Schroder
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Rogge

During the conversation on August 13, 1964, with Mr. J. Lee Rankin of the President's Commission, Mr. Rankin mentioned the requests that have been made of the Bureau to furnish the number of reports, the number of pages, as well as the number of interviews and man hours which have been consumed in the over-all investigation. Mr. Rankin stated that the number of pages as well as the number of reports, as furnished by the Bureau's letter of August 12, 1964, would be most helpful and that he certainly did not expect the Bureau to perform the tedious task of counting the actual number of interviews or to compile the number of man hours utilized. He advised that when the request was made he thought there was a possibility this data might be readily available.

Mr. Rankin stated that in order to give the Bureau due credit for the tremendous amount of investigation which had been performed by the Bureau, it was intended that a statement would be included in the "foreword" of the Commission's report, mentioning the extent of the Bureau's activity.

Polygraph Examination of Ruby:

Mr. Rankin stated that Chief Justice Warren had recently returned to the United States, following which he, Mr. Rankin, had briefed the Chief Justice thoroughly concerning the Bureau's assistance in affording Jack Ruby a polygraph interview on July 18, 1964. Mr. Rankin stated that the Chief Justice was most appreciative that the Bureau had gone ahead with this polygraph examination in view of the personal promise that he had made to Jack Ruby that he would be afforded a polygraph examination. He stated that the Chief Justice was fully cognizant and appreciative of the various sound observations which had been made by the Bureau relative to affording Ruby a polygraph examination, but regardless of the Bureau's feelings in this matter, we had gone ahead and complied with the request of the President's Commission.

1 - 62-10-530 (Assassination)
1 - 135-8-365 (Oswald)
1 - 44-24-16 (Ruby)

JRM:mjd (13)

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: President's Commission

Mr. Rankin advised that with regard to the polygraph examination, there would be a discussion in the report of the Commission showing the conditions under which this polygraph examination was given to Jack Ruby and the report would quote the Bureau's letters therein, where we set forth our observations relative to the desirability of giving Ruby such an examination.

Bureau's Interest in Rights of Individuals:

During the discussion, Mr. Rankin mentioned that staff members of the Commission were very much interested in seeing that the comments of the Director and Mr. Belmont were brought to light in the Commission's report in such a way that they would receive appropriate attention rather than appearing solely in the testimony itself. He advised that this matter had not been taken up with the seven members of the Commission as of this time but this would be done very shortly and that it was his desire to see that the Bureau's interests in the rights of individuals was properly related in an appropriate part of the report. Mr. Rankin did not volunteer where in the report this information would be set forth.

Comments Concerning the Bureau's
Participation in the Investigation:

Mr. Rankin commented that throughout the tremendous amount of work which has been done concerning the assassination of the President, the FBI had certainly carried a tremendous workload, and that while Secret Service had performed a small amount of investigation at the request of the Commission and a few other agencies had done some minor work, the bulk of the investigative activity had been carried on by the FBI. He stated that throughout the entire existence of the President's Commission the Bureau had cooperated fully and never on any occasion refused to carry out a request of the Commission, regardless of how ridiculous the request might have seemed on the surface. He stated he was well aware of the fact that many of the requests did not have any basis in fact for being run out but because of the nature of the investigation, the Commission felt that it had to be done. He stated he felt that the Bureau's efforts along these lines would certainly reflect favorably on the Bureau's investigation and the amount of interest that was given to detail, both by the Bureau and the President's Commission. He stated that all in all, he felt that the Commission's report would certainly reflect creditably on the FBI.

Date of Final Report by the Commission:

Mr. Rankin advised that the present target date for the submission of the report of the Commission was September 3, 1954. He stated he sincerely hoped that the Commission would be able to meet this target date but that as of

Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Risen
Re: President's Commission

the present time he was not certain whether this could be done. In this connection Mr. Rankin mentioned the fact that he was aware the Bureau had received a number of requests in recent weeks and that all of the requests of the President's Commission were being complied with as rapidly as possible. He also stated that anything that could be done to expedite these late requests would be appreciated.

Mr. Rankin was assured that the Bureau was well aware of the Commission's desire to wind up their activity and that specific instructions had been given to all offices conducting investigation to complete all phases of our investigation in the shortest possible time.

This is being watched most carefully at the Seat of Government and we are seeing that all offices are handling matters on an expeditious basis.

Submitted for information.