

September 17, 1964

James Lee Rankin
Warren Commission
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Mr. Barry and Mr. Long, FBI agents from Oklahoma City, visited me today in Hominy, Oklahoma. They informed me you were in receipt of a wire from me which you requested them to follow up.

I informed them that while I appreciated the thought, I could not discuss the wire with them as I had sent it to you personally and did not intend to make any statement regarding it to any investigative agency outside of the Commission itself--and then, if necessary, only by subpoena.

The wire I sent was intended only to refresh Commission memory in regard to the time sequence of the "three shots." As you probably know, the Warren Report is due any day now and my communication was meant as a reminder that we will all be reading it for every bit of information that should be in it.

You are aware, perhaps, that I have contacted the Commission in the past. I have sent a number of wires, but the wire in question (sent only last week) appears to be the only one to have struck a nerve. The FBI is certainly within its rights to ask any question of me that it sees fit. On the other hand, I am not required by law to reply. My refusal, however, is not meant as a disparagement or reflection on the two Oklahoma City agents who were here. I would not want you to feel they failed. I take responsibility for not replying to them. I would remind the Commission I am a little tired in regard to Communist peccadillos. Months ago I sent the Commission a piece of evidence which while not world-shaking (and probably not new) seemed important. All I asked in reply was an acknowledgment from the Commission that they had received my wire. But I had no reply. Later I wrote to the Commission stating that I felt my children and I had come upon small bits of conflicting testimony from certain witnesses that I would like to give the Commission. I mentioned in my letter that I would be glad to give this evidence of conflicting testimony from certain key witnesses in the case of the assassination of the President of the United States to a Commission representative in a deposition to be taken at my home in Hominy. (I was afraid if I did not make this clear you might think of a woman wanting only a free trip to Washington.) I received one reply, no reply. Not a yes. Not a no. Not a "I'll get it done" from Commission member (and former member of the FBI) Mr. Ford, or rather a dry note asking why if I thought I knew something I not offer the information to the Commission? I wrote to Mr. Ford and explained to him that I had tried to do just that but to no avail. I then asked Mr. Ford if he would be so kind as to explain to me why I had not even received a courteous refusal from the Commission to my offer. But, of course, I never heard from Mr. Ford again.

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Now, because I have sent a wire which has struck close to home, the Commission wishes the FBI to my doorstep. But it is my conclusion that the Commission failed me months ago when in single-hearted (and simple-minded) good faith I tried to serve it as a citizen. The wire in question I would stress again was not sent in order to call out the guards, or to route the FBI, but only to remind the "blue-ribbon," history-minded Commission that it must include every iota of evidence and testimony in its report in order to present "to the American people and the world" a conclusive and coherent historical document.

For our part, we have been disappointed that our government while seemingly omnipotent does not even have good manners.

Adding a remembrance of our work in your prayers, we are
Sincerely,
Mrs. Ruth S. Martin and Children
Box 566
Nowata, Oklahoma

cc: 25