

Hon. John B. Connally
State Capitol
Austin, Texas

November 25, 1966

Dear Gov. Connally;

The communication you are about to read has been addressed "personal" for security reasons which will be obvious upon reading. You are therefore expressly requested to keep its contents confidential unless and until they can be verified.

I have noted with considerable disgust that the leaders of Congress evidently don't believe that the doubts raised by your remarks in the November 25, 1966 issue of Life Magazine warrant another investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

By everyone's admission, your remarks were based on evidence that is already known, and the re-examination of some of it. But the questions raised by your remarks, and those of others, have created so much doubt about the correctness of the Warren Report that it would seem to me that though only another investigation would clear the air.

In addition to these doubts, many people are overlocking the fact that though Jack Ruby assassinated Communist tough Lee Harvey Oswald in the Dallas police station, and before a nationwide television audience two days after Mr. Kennedy was murdered, plus the fact that how he got into the police station, or why the supposedly prudent Dallas authorities permitted a nationwide telecast of Oswald's scheduled transfer to county jail has never been fully explained. And neither has there been any explanation of why the time of Oswald's transfer was given so much publicity.

The law of common sense says that Oswald should have been placed under maximum security following his arrest, and that his transfer to county jail should have been conducted secretly and without any advance publicity, much less the nationwide telecast. But this procedure wasn't followed. And as long as the Federal authorities seem disinterested in reopening this case, I believe that, as Governor of Texas, you have a perfect right — and probably a duty — to conduct your own investigation and bring the reasons to public attention.

Unfortunately, I have no fresh evidence. But I do have a theory, and since everybody else seems to be operating on theories, I will share the trouble of telling you about it.

It's simply that Ruby himself might have been the second assassin involved in the Kennedy case.

It is known that Oswald and Ruby knew each other. And it is known that the FBI reportedly received a tip that Oswald would be killed when he was transferred to county jail. That information was broadcast by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) the day after Oswald was murdered.

Now if you work on the theory that another assassin was involved and I am, it is quite possible that Ruby was the suspect, and that he got into the Dallas police station and killed Oswald to keep him from talking. Therefore, how he got into the police station, and the true reasons for murdering Oswald would seem to me to be of very great importance.

It is certain that Ruby and I had a close relationship along
the Dallas television circuit. I think so. I have always
known.

Of course, I happen to know the former mayor of Dallas, Texas --
the security of Mark E. Taper -- from Dallas. I can assure
that none of them could get into the Santa Lucia office under
similar circumstances, nor could they get in.

Thus, it seems logical to assume that either the security in
Dallas was alarmingly lax, or Ruby was in. And I think it is high
time to find out for certain which it was.

During the past few months, there has been increasing controversy
over the John Birch Society (JBS) and what it is up to. It has been
claimed that the Birch group is a menace to the nation and as dangerous
if not somewhat more so, than the Communist Party, U. S. A.

Some of the controversy has been politically motivated -- as usual
but there seems to be little doubt that much of the criticism leveled
upon at least part of this group is more than justified.

I am referring, of course, to the so-called "Welch wing" of the
Society, which is headed by Robert Welch, its founder and president.
It is very probable that former Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, a known
and acknowledged Birch member of this branch of the JBS, and
thanks to his past activities, I have always wondered how he escaped
suspicion of being involved in the atrocity in Dallas.

Gen. Walker was arrested Oct. 30, 1962, for inciting part of the
mob actions at the University of Mississippi, and would have probably
been put on the Bobby Kennedy not cleared to try and be a hero and
attempt prosecution for "rebellion, insurrection and seditious con-
spiracy." I am certain that Gen. Walker was guilty of inciting to
riot and interfering with Federal officers. I am further, but certain
that he was attempting an insurrection, as Bobby claimed. I don't seri-
ously doubt that Bobby had such documentation as would prove it. And I am cert-
ainly convinced that Bobby's desire to be a hero is the only reason
this extremist is still on the loose today.

Just before Mr. Kennedy visited Dallas, extremists believed to be
associated with Gen. Walker incited a major mob action there when
the late W. F. James chose Alvin I. Stevenson spoke in the city. After
his assassination, there were published reports that the secret Service
had advised Mr. Kennedy that the mob actions during Mr. Stevenson's
visit to Dallas appeared to be the work of extremists, and that he
should consider postponing his scheduled trip there.

It is known that an anti-Kennedy advertisement appeared in a Dallas
newspaper the day of his arrival, and there are some who claimed that it
might have incited Oswald to kill him. Who ran this ad, I don't know.
But I'm wondering if it could have been the same extremists responsible
for the demonstrations against Mr. Stevenson and the W. F., and, if so,
whether there might be any further connection between their possible
activities immediately before Mr. Kennedy's arrival and his subsequent
assassination.

Now as I stated before, I am working entirely on theory because
I don't have any evidence available that would prove or even indicate

... by such groups on "actually" id trans...
... but I have had a suspicion for quite a while that both right
... left-wing extremists often work together, and that the sooner we
... solve the extremist problem on this basis, the sooner we can rid our-
... selves of the menace created by both Communist and Fascist subversives.

... e know, for example, that the Ku Klux Klan, which is now on the
... Attorney General's subversive list, preaches white supremacy, anti-
... Catholicism, and a few other things defined by our Constitution as
... un-American. We know, also, that the Black Muslim Fascist hate cult
... preaches black supremacy, race hatred, etc., and that it has demanded
... publicly that the Federal Government surrender three or four states
... so it can found an all-Negro nation within the continental U. S.

In addition, we know that the Student Non-Violent Coordinating
... Committee, (SNCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality, (CORE) both
... so-called leftist groups, have supported and even endorsed "black pow-
... erment" which seem to be aimed at giving the Muslims what they want.
... By the same token, we know that certain right-wing groups, like the
... National States Rights Party, George Lincoln Rockwell's crackpot
... American Party Party, the Minutemen and certain other paramilitary
... groups, have espoused "white power" in some instances, notably during
... the mob actions this past summer in Chicago and Baltimore, etc.

Now this type of senseless business has been going on for a long
... time. And it has got to be stopped . . . before we have a few more
... presidents and governors shot at and killed.

Perhaps you will recall the 1964 civil rights (if you care to call
... them that) riot actions in Harlem and Brooklyn. Shortly after they
... were over, authorities in New York said they had uncovered evidence
... that an "unholy alliance" of Communists and fascists had been formed
... to support the Black Muslims. They said some of the arrested Muslims
... admitted that they were receiving financial support from a White
... Man who they did not hesitate to name.

Police did not reveal the Texan's identity, however, as far as I
... know.

Now if right-wing extremists can only called fascists have to deal
... with the Communists to support a group like the Muslims, there is no
... reason to think they wouldn't do so to assassinate a President of the
... United States, if they had a motive.

As far as the Oswald assassination is concerned, I quite frankly
... don't know of any motive for a possible conspiracy to murder the late
... Chief Executive. But many extremists might qualify as mentally dis-
... turbed individuals, and these people don't really need a motive to
... motive to commit murder.

For example, a Roman Catholic priest, Father John F. Shea, was
... assassinated in the Chancery office of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles
... by a Mrs. Dorothy Briscoe whose only apparent motive was an imaginary
... belief that she was being harassed "by fat clerics and their collaborators."
... She was attempting to see James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, and Bishop
... of Los Angeles, when she murdered Father Shea, who was acting as the
... Cardinal's secretary. She was later convicted to an insane asylum.

It would be... that the... could more than justify... of... in... even if there is no... evidence... of this time. And it would not be... that if somebody... that Ruby might have been the second assassin,... to find out how he actually got into the Dallas office... who his two motives for killing Oswald were, whether the... leaders who incited the mob actions during Mr. Stevenson's... visit to Dallas were in any way responsible for the anti-Johnson... newspaper advertisement on the day of the President's arrival in the... city, and, if so, whether they might have had any connection with... Oswald, Ruby, or both, that additional evidence might be uncovered... sooner or later.

It is for these reasons that I have taken the time to write you this letter. And it is for these reasons that I hope and pray that, as Governor of Texas, you will see fit to conduct your own investigation of this atrocity if the Federal Government insists on ignoring the obvious fact that only another investigation will remove all the doubt that has arisen about what actually happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Very truly yours

Clayton Kopp
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Santa Monica, Calif.