

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald
IS-R
The Presidential Commission

12/17/63

I told Congressman Ford in strict confidence that apparently Chief Justice Warren was quite close to Drew Pearson and obviously used Pearson from time to time to get thoughts across to the general public. I mentioned Pearson's articles of December 14-16, 1963. I told Congressman Ford as he well knew 98% of the facts in these articles were absolutely false.

Congressman Ford told me that several members had been somewhat surprised, however, pleased that the FBI's report had been in narrative form rather than written in a straightforward factual manner. I told him this, of course, was for the convenience of the Commission. He then mentioned Chief Justice Warren had expressed the desirability of seeing the actual reports which back up those in narrative form. I told him the Director had issued very specific instructions that these reports be made ready for the Commission. I told him they were quite lengthy and would be considerable material to wade through.

Two members of the Commission brought up the fact that they still were not convinced that the President had been shot from the sixth floor window of the Texas Book Depository. These members failed to understand the trajectory of the slugs that killed the President. He stated he felt this point would be discussed further but, of course, would represent no problem.

Three members of the Commission expressed disappointment that U. E. Baughman, former Chief of Secret Service, had seen fit to make a number of ill-advised remarks concerning the operations of the Secret Service in the press. The Commission does not agree with Baughman and criticized him quite thoroughly. They nevertheless plan to call him before the Commission and take testimony.

At the Commission meeting yesterday, Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel, was authorized to hire two so-called "technicians" who will assist him in research and development of the Commission's findings. The Commission was told by Rankin that these men were skilled attorneys. One of these individuals is named _____ Adams; a former Police Commissioner in New York. Another individual is a person by the name of _____ Jenner, an attorney from Chicago. The Commission was advised that both of these men are available for immediate employment. Congressman Ford stated he raised the question as to checking the backgrounds of these individuals. He was told by Rankin that both of them had very satisfactory backgrounds and belonged to no organizations inimical to the best interest of the U. S. Government.

Upon leaving Congressman Ford advised me that he will be in Michigan on a skiing vacation with his wife and children between December 22, 1963 and January 1, 1964. He stated I should call him at any time his assistance was needed.

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He stated he had one problem. He wanted to take the FBI report with him yet he had no way of transporting it in complete safety. I told him I felt the Director would want him to borrow from us one of our Agent briefcases that contains a lock. He stated this would be ideal and he would appreciate loan of a briefcase very much.

ACTION:

This matter will be followed very closely. If there are no objections, I will deliver an Agent briefcase containing a lock to Congressman Ford tomorrow, December 18, 1963.

*1
W. J. ...
12/17/63
D*

OK. JHM R.D.H. [Signature]