

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Office, Room 713
- 1 - Mr. Jevons
- 1 - Mr. Herndon

July 28, 1964

By Courier Service

SV
62-10706-8

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

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 REC'D-READING ROOM
 FBI

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In accordance with arrangements made by Mr. Arlen Specter of your staff, Jack L. Ruby was afforded a polygraph examination at the Dallas County Jail, Dallas, Texas, Saturday, July 18, 1964. The polygraph examination was conducted by Special Agent Earl P. Herndon, FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

It should be pointed out that the polygraph, often referred to as "lie detector" is not in fact such a device. The instrument is designed to record under proper stimuli emotional responses in the form of physiological variations which may indicate and accompany deception. The FBI feels that the polygraph technique is not sufficiently precise to permit absolute judgements of deception or truth without qualifications. The polygraph technique has a number of limitations, one of which relates to the mental fitness and condition of the examinee to be tested.

During the proceedings at Dallas, Texas, on July 18, 1964, Dr. William R. Beavers, a psychiatrist, testified that he would generally describe Jack Ruby as a "psychotic depressive." In view of the serious question raised as to Ruby's mental condition, no significance should be placed on the polygraph examination and it should be considered nonconclusive as the charts cannot be relied upon.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Hoover

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. DeLoach _____

Mr. Mohr _____

Mr. Bishop _____

Mr. Casper _____

Mr. Callahan _____

Mr. Conrad _____

Mr. Felt _____

Mr. Gale _____

Mr. Rosen _____

Mr. Sullivan _____

Mr. Tavel _____

Mr. Trotter _____

Tele. Room _____

Miss Holmes _____

Miss Gandy _____

62-109060 Note on attached page.

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Note: Memoranda Jevons to Mr. Conrad dated 7-20-64, 7-22-64, and 7-24-64, set forth the results of the polygraph examination of Jack Ruby at Dallas and advised that Mr. Specter on 7-21-64, requested that a report of the examination be delayed until a complete review of the psychiatrist's testimony be made. On 7-24-64, he requested a brief report in the form of a letter be furnished to the Commission even though the psychiatrist's complete testimony has not been reviewed. He also requested SA Herndon to appear for conference at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, 7-28-64, and to give a deposition at 2:00 p. m. regarding the polygraph examination. It is anticipated that during the deposition, hypothetical situations will be presented based on the data in the polygraph charts; if so any reply will be carefully qualified solely to the situation presented. The question of Ruby's mental condition precludes any interpretation of his polygrams. Specifically, it is anticipated that Mr. Specter may ask for an interpretation of the charts based on the assumption that Ruby is sane and mentally competent. In such an event it is contemplated that the answer will be given that on the basis of the hypothesis advanced by the Commission's attorney the charts would normally be interpreted as showing no indication of deception; however, that the examiner has no information which would resolve the hypothesis and therefore must consider the results in this instance inconclusive.

Based on Memoranda from R. H. Jevons to Mr. Conrad dated 7/27/64, re: Jack L. Ruby; Lee Harvey Oswald, Victim; Civil Rights.