

Alleged Oswald-FBI tie aired

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Warren Commission discussed a report that Lee Harvey Oswald had worked as an FBI undercover agent for more than a year before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, according to a recently declassified commission transcript.

Members of the commission, including the late Chief Justice Earl Warren and President Ford, who was then a Michigan congressman, discussed the report at a closed session on Jan. 22, 1964.

The transcript remained classified top secret for 11 years until released to Harold Weisberg, an author who had filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act. Weisberg has written numerous books and articles criticizing the Warren Commission investigation and its conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, shot and killed Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

A copy of the transcript was obtained by The Associated Press.

At the start of the meeting, Lee Rankin, general counsel of the commission, said he had been told by Waggoner Carr, Texas attorney general, that the word had come out ... that Oswald was acting as an FBI undercover agent and that they had the information of his badge which was given as number 179, and that he was being paid \$200 a month from September of 1962 up through the time of the assassination.

Carr acknowledged going to the Warren Commission with the information on Oswald and said he recommended "they explore and investigate this rumor thoroughly. I emphasized (to them) that so far as we were concerned, there was no concrete evidence (to back up the reports)."

Rankin said he had talked to Henry Wade, Dallas district attorney, who told him the source of the report was a member of the press.

"There is a denial of this in one of these FBI records, as you know," interjected the late Rep. Hale Boggs, D-La., another commission member.

Later, Rankin commented that he and Warren had discussed the report and "we said if that was true and it ever came out and could be established, then you would have people think that there was a conspiracy to accomplish this assassination, that nothing the commission did or anybody could dissipate."

After further discussion the men spoke of their fear that the FBI was trying to maneuver them simply into endorsing the FBI probe and described how the FBI probably wanted the probe handled.

One unidentified speaker said, "They (the FBI) would like to have us fold up and quit."

"This closes the case, you

sec, don't you see," said Boggs. more to do. The commission "Yes. I see that" said Dulles, supports their conclusions and "They found the man" said we can go on home and that Rankin. "There is nothing is the end of it."

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Page 2-A

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