

Reopen The Warren Commission

Concluding the testimony of District Attorney Henry Wade, we wonder why there was no questioning by Commission Member Gerald Ford. Congressman Ford took the first chapter of his book "Portrait of the Assassin", to outline the charges made by Henry Wade and Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr that Oswald was in fact an undercover agent of the FBI.

Ford's opening paragraph in his book reads:

"No sooner had the Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination assembled its staff and tentatively outlined methods of operation than it was plunged into an astounding problem. On Wednesday, January 22, the members of the Commission were hurriedly called into emergency session by the Chairman. Mr. J. Lee Rankin, newly appointed General Counsel for the Commission, had received a telephone call from Texas. The caller was Mr. Waggoner Carr, the Attorney General of Texas. The information was that the FBI had an 'undercover agent' and that that agent was none other than Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy!"

"Each had received an urgent message to come at 5:30 p. m. to the Commission's offices in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building. The session that followed lasted until after seven. I cannot recall attending a meeting more tense and hushed."

Wade and Carr were not present at the "hushed" meeting referred to by Congressman Ford. When these two Texans did appear to present their evidence, only the Commission staff was present to hear the evidence.

When the Dallas District Attorney and Texas Attorney General appeared for the testimony printed here, Ford was not present and, therefore, asked no questions. The public remains in the dark as it appears none of the Commission really tried to determine if the earlier charges were true or false.

Wade's testimony continues with more questioning by Mr. Rankin about Wade's press and TV interview.

MR. RANKIN. On the seven points were any of them that were new that hadn't already been told to the public?

MR. WADE. To tell you the truth, I don't know. I think there were some of them that hadn't been but I think most of them had. But I couldn't see at this stage the evidence on this thing, nobody, the situation where you had an assassination, and a dead person and another case pending, and it was against my interest actually, to trying Ruby, it would be a whole lot better trying Ruby if he killed the wrong man than if he killed the assassin of the President, but I was trying to establish that this was the assassin of the President.

And I didn't give all the evidence, and I don't know whether there was anything new or not because I didn't see much of television during all this time. I don't actually know everything that was given out, and there was so much in the papers that I didn't have time to read them, so I didn't know for sure what all the police had given out.

Senator COOPER. Substantially then, you were laying out to the public the facts which had led you to issue a

see they interviewed some of your patrolmen who were giving out evidence, you know, some of your foot patrolmen on the corner, they were interviewing anybody.

RANKIN. Would it help or hinder the handling of such a crime of the killing of the President if it was a Federal crime, in your opinion?

WADE. Well, offhand, I think probably it would, but—

RANKIN. It would help?

WADE. I think it would help, but you are going to have the same situation. I am thinking if you had, if it is a Federal crime, for instance, it is still murder in Texas. If Captain Fritz and the Dallas police had arrested this man, the FBI wouldn't have had him. I don't care if it was a Federal crime. We have bank robberies where there is joint jurisdiction. The one that gets him, if it is the State police or the city police gets them, they file with me and if the FBI gets them they file with the Federal.

RANKIN. You need more control over the police investigation in order to carry out your duties, is that—

WADE. Of course; my idea if you had it to do over, it is easy to do that, but I think you need someone where all the information is channeled through one person. If anything is given out and getting an intelligent person, not just a police officer, you know. Now, your city manager of Dallas is a newspaper man, Elgin Crull, he would have been an ideal person and he was there but I don't think he ever said anything in any way. He was there in the middle of all that thing.

RANKIN. Is the lawyer that you referred to in answer to Senator Cooper's questions about Carrol Jarnegan?

WADE. Carrol Jarnegan is his name; yes, sir. Let me mention another thing for the record here, I don't know whether it is mentioned. Saturday, most of my day was spent in talking to Dean R. G. Storey, and the dean of the Harvard Law School, raising, wondering what the situation was with reference to attorneys for Oswald.

Some testimony omitted here.

RANKIN. Did you do anything more about the press and TV and radio people crowding into the police station than you have already described?

WADE. No; you see—I have been in that building probably once every 2 years.

It is the other end of town from my building, I never go up there and I don't think it is my business what goes on up there. Maybe it should be, but I have never been considering it. I think I have enough problems down at my end of the street.

RANKIN. In any event you didn't do anything.

WADE. I didn't tell them anything, I could see the confusion they were getting into but I don't know of anything that I told about, but what if I did, I had no control over it. It was one of those things I just figured I was the one who didn't have the say in it.

RANKIN. What did you do on Sunday, the 25th?

WADE. Well, went to church.

RANKIN. The 24th.

WADE. I went to church, my family and I went to Dr. J. W. Martin's nondenominational church. It has 27 different denominations, very bright fellow, if you are in Dallas you ought to go and hear him.

This is an unsolicited testimonial which must make Reverend Martin glow with pride.

Some testimony omitted here.

RANKIN. Did it come to your attention that there

was some claim that Oswald was an agent of some intelligence agencies of Government.

WADE. I heard that talk down there. It was some—

RANKIN. Do you know who was talking that?

WADE. I don't know. I have been up there once or twice and some of the press men—I don't remember any of the press mentioned that they had seen Oswald's name in his book there that had some names of the FBI or the CIA. I know nothing about that. I don't think anybody in my office—

numbers in there but they were supposed to have some numbers in there as a voucher number of \$200 from some Government agency but like I say, supposed to be. I never saw it and heard it, talk, but I am sure you all know more about it than I do.

DULLES. By voucher you mean an entry or something of that kind, what kind of a voucher?

WADE. I think it was called a voucher number, it was voucher 200, which doesn't make sense. I believe it was a number. It doesn't make sense for a government to have a voucher number that low.

RANKIN. What book are you referring to?

WADE. The little black book that Oswald had in his possession at the time he was arrested.

RANKIN. That was his memorandum book in which he had a list of numbers of various agencies and addresses and on back is that what you are talking about?

WADE. Yes, and I never had a chance to see it, as well as a matter of fact, I am trying to get some photos of it, trying to but I haven't gotten them yet.

RANKIN. Now, what agency was it rumored he was a member of?

WADE. It was rumored he worked first for the FBI and then for the CIA.

RANKIN. Is that all you have heard?

WADE. As a matter of fact, I don't think I had ever heard that until Waggoner Carr called me and told me— I don't think I ever heard that. I did check into it a little and they were talking it some, and they have actually written it up in the newspapers by rumors or a story or two—rumors of the thing.

RANKIN. Is that the report by the reporter Hudkins?

WADE. I believe it is. On the Houston paper, Hudkins. I believe we got that introduced in the Ruby trial on the change of venue motion.

RANKIN. Is there anything more that you know about that matter?

WADE. I know absolutely nothing about it. I might say, I was under the impression that it was supposed to be that it was a rumor.

