

Reopen The Warren Commission

Usual legal procedure does not permit one witness to hear the testimony of another witness. An exception, however, was made for Henry Wade and Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr. In a previous installment we have printed the seriousness with which the Commission considered the charge by these two men that Oswald was an undercover agent of the FBI. Congressman Ford told the story in his book "Portrait of the Assassin."

Questioning of Carr seems limited, restrained, and very gentle. Again, Congressman Ford was not present to add to the questioning.

CARR. I am Waggoner Carr, attorney general of the State of Texas.

RANKIN. And you are a practicing lawyer, are you?

CARR. Yes, sir; before I was elected, I was practicing law in Lubbock, Tex. Now, of course, being attorney general, this has taken me out of the private practice. Prior to that I graduated from law school at the University of Texas, had my pre-law with a BBA degree from Texas Tech. I have been an assistant district attorney for the 72d judicial district in Texas; county attorney of Lubbock County for 2 years; served in the Texas House of Representatives for 10 years, the last 4 of those years being as Speaker of the House, and was elected attorney general in 1960.

RANKIN. You are the same Waggoner Carr who has participated from time to time in observing these hearings and cooperating with the Commission regarding its work?

CARR. Yes.

RANKIN. Insofar as the State of Texas is concerned.

CARR. Yes.

RANKIN. Were you here when Henry Wade was testifying with regard to a conversation between himself and yourself, this morning?

CARR. Yes, sir.

RANKIN. Would you relate to us that conversation as you recall it, both what you said and what he said?

CARR. As I recall, it was around 8 or 9 o'clock at night on November 22, 1963, when I received a long-distance telephone call from Washington from someone in the White House. I can't for the life of me remember who it was.

One wonders if the Attorney General does not keep a daily journal of calls to his office.

A rumor had been heard here that there was going to be an allegation in the indictment against Oswald connecting the assassination with an international conspiracy, and the inquiry was made whether I had any knowledge of it, and I told him I had no knowledge of it.

As a matter of fact, I hadn't been in Dallas since the assassination and was not there at the time of the assassination.

So the request was made of me to contact Mr. Wade to find out if that allegation was in the indictment.

I received the definite impression that the concern of the caller was that because of the emotion or the high tension existed at that time that someone might thoughtlessly place in the indictment such an allegation without having the proof of such a conspiracy. So I did call Mr. Wade from my home, when I received the call, and he told

me very much what he repeated to you today, as I recall, that he had no knowledge of anyone desiring to have that planning to have that in the indictment; that it would be surprising, it was not necessary to allege it, and that it would not be in there, but that he would doublecheck it to be sure.

And then I called back, and, as I recall I did—and informed the White House participant in the conversation what Mr. Wade had said, and that was all of it.

Wonder how Carr decided who to talk to when he returned the call to the White House.

RANKIN: Was there anything said to you at any time anybody from Washington that if there was any evidence that was credible to support such an international conspiracy it should not be included in the indictment or conspiracy action.

WADSWORTH: Absolutely not. There was no direct talk about this or insinuation that the FBI, whatever they might be, should be surprised if they found that in the course of their work, and certainly no commitment for any particular action. I think that could not be said. I think they could have had any reaction which they wanted, but I think they would not have had any reaction which would have been a direct result of what was said.

WADSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chief.

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