

Who Was Oswald?

Notes with BOT. Chapters 10

Q. Should Oswald have been on the Secret Service's Alert List for Dallas? What did the FBI know about Oswald that should have prompted them to notify the Secret Service. (Point here: The SS needed all the help it could get. It was totally inadequate to provide security in the new era of Cold War threats.) It was more suited for protecting President Woodrow Wilson than a John F. Kennedy.

Point: Oswald was on FBI Flash List (Security interest). But was removed from the List on October 10, 1963 for no apparent reason. The FBI had good reason to have suspicions about LHO.

William S. Walter, a Security Patrol Clerk for the FBI's New Orleans Office reported that he received a teletype on his November 17, 1963, shift in the office reporting that there would be an assassination attempt on Kennedy during his Texas trip. He reported this to the New Orleans SAC Harry Maynor, who did nothing about the warning. This little tidbit is confirmed by the FBI's own records.

The Oswald Hosty note.*

One thing about this for certain: Unless the FBI had internal knowledge that Oswald was a government asset (CIA, ONI, whatever) this note alone should have convinced the FBI to have Oswald on its Security Index and alerted the SS about Oswald.

If Oswald was the Oswald of the Warren Commission the FBI would have alerted the SS and Oswald would have had no access to JFK while he was in Texas.

Who Was Oswald

Notes to Chapter 11

Point: Senator Russell, a member of the Commission, is the Warren Report's first dissenter. He forces the emergency September 18th Executive Session.

the Georgian would be apoplectic. But the release of White House two hours ago has left Russell trapped, indeed. The senator cannot force a retraction of the press stunning rebuke to his protégé. In the end, he cannot catch a political blow to Johnson, who needs more than confidence in his leadership is warranted rather than a

about President Kennedy's assassination with almost his reaction to the news a week ago was anything but. at the time, and when it instantly recessed, everyone boom," a lobby behind the Senate chamber where UPI are located. Roger Mudd, a young reporter covering us, would never forget the sight of the Senate's most the UPI machine, reading aloud to a group huddled down Russell's face.³¹²

ou again, but . . .

Mr. President. know that I'd made that announcement.

announcement.

addy?

may I read it to you?

quickly!

announced that he's appointing a Special Commission upon all the facts and circumstances relating to the

president, John F. Kennedy, and the death of the man charged with the assassination.

that the majority and minority leadership of the had been consulted with respect to the proposed

The members of the Special Commission are,

Earl Warren, chairman; Senator Richard Russell, n [Sherman] Cooper, Kentucky; Representative ar: Representative Gerald Ford, Michigan; les, Washington; Honorable John J. McCloy,

The president stated the Special Commission is to be instructed to evaluate all available information concerning the subject [of] the inquiry. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to an earlier directive of the president, is making a complete investigation of the facts. An inquiry is scheduled by a Texas Court of Inquiry convened by the attorney general of Texas under Texas law. The Special Commission will have before it *all* the evidence uncovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and all the information available to any agency of the federal government. The attorney general of Texas has also offered his cooperation. All federal agencies and offices are being directed to furnish services in cooperation to the Special Commission. The commission will *also* be empowered to conduct *any further* investigation that it deems desirable. The president is instructing the Special Commission to satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as it can be *discovered*, and to report its findings and conclusions to him, to the American people, and to the world."

Russell: Well now, Mr. President . . . I know I don't have to tell you of my devotion to *you*, but I just can't serve on that commission. I'm highly honored you'd think about me in connection with it. But I couldn't serve there with Chief Justice Warren. I don't like that man, and . . . I don't have any confidence in him, [even] though I realize [*Russell is speaking facetiously*] he's a much greater man in the United States nearly . . . today [than] near almost *anyone*. And so you get John Stennis.³¹³ He's a—

Johnson: Dick, it's already been announced, and you can serve with anybody for the good of America. This is a question that has a good many more ramifications than's on the surface, and . . . we got to take this out of the arena where they're testifyin' that [Nikita] Khrushchev and [Fidel] Castro did this and did that, and that [could end up] kickin' us into a war that can kill 40 million Americans in an hour, and . . . you'd put on your uniform in a minute [to stop that from happening].

Now the reason I asked Warren is because he's the chief justice of this country, and we've got to have the highest judicial people we can have.³¹⁴ The reason I ask you is because you have that same kind of temperament, and you can do anything for your country. And don't go to givin' me that kinda stuff about you can't serve with anybody. You can do *anything*.

Russell: Well see, it's not only that. I don't think the chief justice should have served on it.

Johnson: Well . . . [the] chief justice oughta do anything he can to save

313. Stennis is regarded as Russell's apprentice in the Senate; the Mississippi Democrat is also privy to CIA operational secrets as a member of the Armed Services CIA subcommittee.

314. Whether Russell recalls it or not, Johnson is throwing back a refined version of the argument Russell fashioned for the president when they talked five hours ago.