

To R.G.

I stopped this exercise at page 9 because I had lost focus. In my experience the Introduction requires your tightest writing and an easy familiarity with the completed manuscript. At present I am just beginning chapter 10. Each of my chapters 1-9 are third draft generation and all need at least another rewrite.

What I have here appears to be a sort of show-and-tell draft highlighting a few examples to substantiate my basic thesis that the Warren Commission Report is mythology and was not, nor was it intended to be, a good faith accounting of the Kennedy assassination.

This exercise was not a waste of time. It has forced me to do some early thinking about what should be in an Introduction sooner than I would otherwise have pushed myself to take on this task.

For my own benefit I am itemizing some of my thoughts on what should be included in an Introduction.

@ Some of the observations on the first 3 pages of this 9-page draft that could be expanded upon and fit in nicely.

@ I need to say something about the working relationship between the Hoover Bureau and the Commission. This is a theme that percolates throughout the manuscript.

@ Did LBJ exercise any hands-on influence on the Commission and its deliberations other than at the creation of this blue-ribbon body and at the very end of its life? If there are records on this they are very likely unattainable. My suspicion is that he did confer with Hoover during the Commission's nine months. If he did the most likely source would be the Mildred Stegall Papers now housed at the LBJ Library but are closed to all researchers for the lifetime of the immediate family.

@ Historians of the LBJ years (Beschloss, Kaiser, Prados, Logevall, Dallek, Shesol, et al) all have something useful to say about why Johnson wanted to clear up as quickly as possible the tragedy of Dallas get on with pressing domestic matters and to establish his own Texas-sized imprint on national policy.

What is missed here that goes a long way in explaining why LBJ wanted a rush-to-judgment closure of any investigation into the assassination were his fears that Dallas might have momentous foreign policy implications. This all has to deal with Oswald's trip to Mexico in October 1963 and his contacts with the Soviet Embassy and Cuban consulate. I think the Commission was absolutely right when it concluded that Oswald's Mexico foray was "insignificant." In brief, this is the story of the CIA's Mexico City station and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Mann totally off-the-wall efforts to foment a crisis between the US and Castro's Cuba. This short-lived Mexico imbroglio provides its own ironic twist, in that it was the FBI that squelched the flurry of CIA-Mann allegations that

Oswald was paid off by the Cuban government to kill Kennedy. The delicious fact is that this was the Hoover Bureau's finest hour in the matter of the JFK assassination. A summary of this will be in the final Introduction. This will provide an opportunity to take issue with Newman and Riebling's treatment of Oswald in Mexico in a "footnote war" which I generally avoid in the manuscript.

@ I need to distinguish between the Commissioners and the Commission staff lawyers who did all of the work on the Report. My point will be that the Warren Commission would more accurately be described as the "Rankin Commission." It was largely Rankin and his hand-picked staff lawyers who were responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission and the fabrication of a trumped up case against a dead man. Since he played a central role in the key areas of the Report's most crucial chapter (Chapter Three) Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania's senior senator, is subject to some harsh criticism.

@ I will make the point that some executive agencies were not forthcoming in turning over what they knew about Oswald and the assassination to the Commission. The CIA was the most culpable. Some of this has already been in print, most notably the agency's "executive action" programs against Castro. That's all old news. I'll stick with the CIA's lying about what it held on pre-assassination Oswald in its 201 personnel file.

W.A.

Early State I.
I am on first death
of the body, but the
Learner Commission

It is under this first
funds of project
of the com. community
for public work

The money open to available
the public work