

RELEASED PER P.L-102-526(JFK ACT)
NARA MCT DATE 3/13/10

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

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Mr Conrad's copy
Committee

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Warren Report Explained By Joseph Ball

...dor who believed that. He said "That's the way we do it down there," noted Ball. "In France, Denmark and Germany the newspapers said why believe the FBI? They tell a story to cover up their own failure."

"People had to know what was true," said the past president of the State Bar Association, a member of Ball, Hunt & Hart.

"President Johnson appointed a bipartisan commission, but when he asked Justice Warren to be chairman, Warren refused. There was a precedent for his refusal. Justice Roberts had made the Pearl Harbor investigation and Justice Jackson had gone to the Nuremburg trials. Both had been criticized for it. Earl Warren felt the judiciary should not be involved. However, President Johnson convinced him by saying that his word and his word alone would be believed throughout the world."

Appointments

Mr. Ball said that to his knowledge the appointment of the staff which consisted of 15 investigative lawyers plus other lawyers acting as clerks was made by Justice Warren with the assistance of Lee Rankin, chief counsel.

"We were sent over three or four girls from Justice and the Pentagon. Usually, however, a department sends the staff it wants to get rid of. So it took us a week or so to develop our own legal secretarial staff which finally was a top group, equal to the staff in any legal office in this city or any other."

"I am asked if all the facts have

"The Warren Commission staff was the abiest I have ever been associated with," said Joseph A. Ball, Long Beach attorney and senior trial counsel for the President's Commission on the Association of President Kennedy, at a meeting of the Beverly Hills Bar Association yesterday.

"What does a lawyer do when he is called to Washington to take part in such an investigation? he queried. "We had no organization when I arrived on Jan. 6, 1964, no secretaries, no files. It was like starting your first law office. Yet, in a few weeks, we had a staff working hard."

"I am asked was it worthwhile," he told the Beverly Bar and guests. "It cost a million dollars provided by the President's office. Time Magazine told the story from FBI and police reports. But Time (or any magazine) doesn't carry weight in Europe and around the world, as Chief Justice Earl Warren does."

World Press

"We had a fine press service and received press clippings from all over the U.S. and the world. There were rumors everywhere. Many wondered if the magazines had the truth. Rumors of conspiracies ranged from that of Texas oil men to gangland schemes. There were hints that Lyndon Johnson had lured Kennedy to Texas to have him killed."

"I talked with a man from Ecua-

Malley
Goldberg
Rogge

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 The Los Angeles Daily Journal
Los Angeles, Calif.

P 2 -
Ball's criticism
of
FBI
Case same by
Goldberg

Date: 11/25/64
Edition:
Author: Miles Clark
Editor:
Title:
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
 Being Investigated

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been told about the assassination of the President," he said. "I know the facts have been told. I was one who investigated them."

"The staff never met with the Commission," he went on. "It met alone. It never gave advice. We were never told to go out and investigate anything."

"We were as independent as lawyers who try a civil law suit," he continued. He noted that the staff made up a scheme or plan for the investigation which was presented to the Commission and approved. Then the FBI was asked to make a series of investigations. All rumors were investigated, 2,000 in all. They were people who had said they had seen Ruby and Oswald after the shooting.

"In every instance," Ball said, "it was proven that they had not seen them."

Reads Reports

"When I sat down with Rankin at the beginning, he said, 'read the FBI report'. It was three volumes. Then Rankin instructed me not to accept any report but investigate it myself. I sent for the basic documents of the FBI reports and received 10,000 of them."

"The FBI reports are like a stream of consciousness novel. A pair goes out and talks to witnesses and puts down what was said. David Bellin, my assistant from Des Moines, and I worked out a card file with key numbers from the FBI reports to double check everything reported."

"By mid-February, 1964 we presented the first evidence to the Commission. Marina Oswald, Mrs. Oswald and Robert Oswald. Texas had told us to keep out of the state until after the trial of Ruby. On March 13 we went to Texas where we took depositions and reenacted the assassination."

Ball said the FBI refused to assist in Dallas and developed endless red tape for communicating with their lab and other experts. The Secret Service gave them aid in Texas. FBI field agents and lab men were not allowed to contact the lawyers.

Ball detailed the kinds of split second analysis of movements of Oswald and the car in Texas, problems with Congress attacking the staff and the "magnificent fashion" which Earl Warren handled many of the problems that arose.

Regarding the investigation of one of their lawyers, Ball said, "Through the halls of government still stalks the ghost of Joe McCarthy."

"The Commission left the writing of the report to the staff disagreeing only a few minutes," he said.

"No reasonable person can come to any other conclusion than the report makes," he concluded.

William R. Jarnagin, president of the association, introduced him.

—Miles Clark

Did the staff make up the scheme & investigation

