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3/30/76: MEMO re WC's non-investigation of Oswald agent rumor

Hudkins' File

In reviewing some testimony recently, I came across a very interesting exchange between Henry Wade and Rankin, during Wade's 6/8/64 testimony (5H213ff).

Rankin asks Wade if "it ever came to your attention" that LHO was a gov't agent. In the ensuing discussion, Wade states "I don't think I ever heard that until Waggoner Carr called me and told me." Carr was present in the room during this testimony, and was subsequently questioned (for a few minutes) but never asked about this (5H258-60). This itself is interesting in light of the confusion over how Carr first heard of the "rumor" prior to his 1/22/64 call to Rankin. On the first page of the 1/22 transcript, Rankin seems to say that Carr ~~was~~ indicated that Wade was his source of information, "...and he didn't know exactly where Wade had gotten the information..." But then on p. 2 Rankin says of Carr, "...he hadn't even gotten this from Wade. He got it from another man that the press would bring it before we could know about it..." (probably here a reference to press knowledge of "rumor" and not rumor itself). In Rankin's undated Memo for the Files, he notes that Carr "suggested that his information came ultimately from...Wade, although he stated that he had not discussed this matter directly with Wade." In his opening summary at the 1/27 session, Rankin says (T129): Carr "didn't get the information from...Wade, but he had gotten it ~~xxx~~ from someone else..." Later, of course, Warren speculates that it was Wade's assistant, Alexander, who "blew the whistle. (T181) In his testimony, Wade points to Alexander, noting he is "not a great lover of the FBI (5H242) and speculating that Alexander doesn't know what he's talking about. Wade does seem to give the Commission an invitation never accepted: "I think he would like to talk a little about it..." (243)

The thing that particularly caught my interest in this section of Wade's testimony is that little exchange about Goulden, and that BS of Rankin's that Goulden's story about LHO was "from Hudkins' report that had been picked up." Amazing, indeed, for Goulden's report was in a 12/8/63 paper, Hudkins' in a 1/1/64 paper. This also brings to mind that strange FBI report about Hudkins and Goulden (WWIV, 144-5)

Also note that this testimony is exactly one month after Jaworski wrote Rankin suggesting that there was no need to follow up on Hudkins, mentioning that Hudkins' story was based in part on speculation by Alexander.

As a sidelight, I note that it appears (or perhaps is made to appear) that some of Hudkins' story is taken from Goulden's earlier one, based on the common error re Hosty's name. Goulden quotes Marguerite on Hosty and notes, "An FBI agent named Joseph Hosty handles investigations of subversives for the Dallas field office." Hudkins writes, "Oswald...did know of Joe Hosty, the FBI agent who handles subversive matters in the Dallas FBI office." Of course, Hosty's first name is "James."

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