

Hal's "Honorable Men"

assassination of the truth about JFK's murder.

Hal's Honorable Men, Chapter 2

p. 19 Hal makes point that is referenced in Post Mortem in Chpt. One entitled "Conclusions First." That was that Oswald was the assassin and there was no one else involved. . . Eisenberg memo on the meeting that Warren was decided that Oswald was the lone assassin because it was a conspiracy then it could (according to Eisenberg) "lead the country into a war which could cost the country 40 million lives." This was Warren referencing what he heard from LBJ. . . (p. 19) See White wash IV, p. 24. LBJ used this argument to force Warren to accept the chairmanship of the Commission . . . P. 20 Hal notes that de facto conspiracy not to investigate the crime is documented in Hal's Never Again. . . P. 20

P. 21 Hal on FBI leaking of the Report that LBJ directed the FBI to undertake. . . The Bureau began to leak published on Dec. 2, 1963. On Dec. 5 another leak was the lone assassin assertion of the FBI. . The leak was a clear signal that the WC would follow the FBI lead or there would be trouble. . . (Check w/ press clippings for these cites. . . Warren and Commission understood what was happening. . . It was being maneuvered by Hoover. . . and the FBI elites. . . Hal notes that Adams and Hubert took the leaking as reason to quit the WC staff. . . p. 21 When did Adams resign? Hubert finally left in June. . . P. 21

P.22 Hal notes that Texas Court of Inquiry was likely to go public (planning to) go public w/ report that Oswald had worked for the FBI or the CIA. . . LBJ and the WC got involved and the plan was rejected. . . Its public report says in a few pages what the WC Report says in more than 900 pages.

p. 22 Hal makes point that presidents appoint commissions to cope w/ problems presidents have no other way of handling. . .

p. 24 Hal notes all the various rumors and speculations in circulation: Dallas was a Soviet action. It was work of the Texas oil barons who were angered at JFK's goal to end their special tax exemptions for depletion of oil in the ground. All of these possible motives for Dallas were excluded from the Commission's approach to the assassination . . .

Hal's "Honorable Men," Chpt. 2, p. 2

On p. 25 he notes With the FBI leaks of its conclusions to the assassination that Oswald was the lone assassin. . . .and CD 1 makes only the slightest mention of the assassination (CD-1) and rather spends time vilifying Oswald—a diatribe against Oswald. . . was what CD-1 was. . .

PP 25-26 CD-1 did not become public until well after the Commission's Report was in the public domain. . . CD-1 until the Commissions' records were made available at the Archives late in 1965 and early 1966.

(Tactics by FBI: Most of the testimony taken by the FBI was hearsay (2nd person) rather than first-person testimony when it was readily available. . .(p. 26)

p. 28 Hal notes that ERDA files of the AEC that in those Oak Ridge tests after firing the alleged murder weapon it did result in those deposits on the faces of those doing the firing. . . at Oak Ridge.(He cites Post Mortem pp. 437-440,445-447,451, 470-471, and 624-625. . . Hal notes that this prompted Gallagher declared that those scientists who urged these tests (Paul Aebersold and Vincent Guinn, the scientists who made these special NAA studies for the Dept of Justice as "publicity seekers." (p. 28)

P. 29 He notes in Whitewash (last 2 chpts) all drs at Dallas and Bethesda who examined CE 399 testified that the amount of metal known to have been lost from that bullet made it impossible for that bullet to have had the history officially bestowed upon it.

P. 31

Chapter 3 "The Concept of Honor"

Deals w/ the (Jim Tague) curbstoneBI claimed it examined the curb (direct across from the TSBD). . . .and found no nick in the curb. (Whitewash pp. 158 citing 21H472ff, FBI report of July 17, 1964 (p. 34). . .contending that the nick in the curb could have been washed away by street cleaning machine wash away such a scar or mark . . P. 36 Hal goes on to say that the curbstone bullet smear had "been patched." P. 36 Hal notes that the curbstone had been patched. Whose interests did that serve???

Chapter 3 Concept of Honor”

Pp. 39-40 No bullet went thru the tie or the knot or the shirt collar. Hal banks on Dr. Carrico’s testimony. . . Carrico saw the moribund JFK at Parkland Hosp. . . and the hole in his neck above the shirt collar. . .as Carrico would tell Dulles. . . P. 40). Specter would make the exact opposite conclusion when he fashioned his part of the Warren Report.. . Hal notes that he interviewed Carrico in his office. . .and an account of this can be found in Post Mortem . . . P. 41 Hal notes that Dr. Perry when asked at the press conference at Parkland Hosp. noted that when questioned about the tracheotomy incision Perry confirmed 3 times that the wound in JFK’s neck was a wound of entrance. Each time he was confirmed by Dr. Clark. (p.41). It made the news all over the world. . .The Commissioners and staff all knew this. . . The front shot to JFK made the official story a hoax. . . a hoax good enough for the American people. . .!!!!

P. 43 Hal notes that CIA had phones at the Soviet embassy in Mexico City and the Cuban Embassy also bugged. . . P. 42 Nosenko issue. Nosenko told the CIA that Moscow (KGB) suspected Oswald was a placed agent. . .a “sleeper agent in place.” Oswald was under KGB scrutiny, shadowed and subjected to electronic surveillance as a CIA “sleeper” and it learned that Oswald was openly anti-Soviet. . . P. 43 Nosenko was confined in a specially built brick vault for 3 years. . . .and abused while CIA decided what his fate would be. . . # years later the CIA determined that Nosenko was a legitimate defector . . .and an intelligence coup.. CIA used him to train CIA agents. . . That was long after the WC Report was out and Oswald was portrayed as a “Red” when the WC’s own records confirmed he was anti-Red and anti-USSR.

p. 44 Commission agents David Slawson and Wm. Coleman were dispatched to Mexico City. . .They listened to the tapes of the intercepts at both consulates—Soviet and MexicanNotes that all those tapes no longer exist.. .

Chapter 4 “The Silent Revolt”(Hon. Men)

Hal's "Honorable Men"

Chapter 4 "The Silent Revolt"(Hon. Men)

Gist here: Russell said he would not sign a report that said both JFK and Connally were hit by the same bullet. . . .Cooper and Boggs tended to agree with Russell's opinion. . . (p. 49). In Epstein's Inquest both Cooper and Boggs had strong doubts about the s/b theory. . .See Inquest, pp. 149-150.

The WC language Although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission to determine which shot hit Gove. Connally." Of course it was absolutely essential to the Commission to determine which shot hit Connally (p. 50). The 2nd shot is the one that missed. And the third of the officially-admitted shots exploded in JFK's head and hit nobody else. . . .P. 50 That leaves only the first shot to have afflicted all of the nonfatal wounds to Connally and JFK. . .

p. 52 What this means is that there was not unanimous agreement among the WC members about what was passed off as the unanimous opinion of the Commission that Oswald, acting alone killed JFK. . . that the evidence before Russell and Cooper proved that there was a conspiracy to kill the president... Both Russell and Cooper to their dying day did not deviant from their opposition to the s/b theory (p. 53).

Hal notes on p. 53 that he gets into Oswald's facility w/a rifle. . . See this in "Never Again". . . that according to Marine officers Oswald's poor ability with a rifle. . .

pp. 56-58 were copied and are attached to my chpt. 4 notes. . . .

copy

the Senate, when he was with a major Washington law firm, Covington, Burling, he responded to a letter from Edmund C. T. Johnson, author of the book *The Key*, saying, "Senator Russell opposed the 'one bullet' theory and I also opposed it."

Earlier, in an oral history for the Russell archive, recorded April 29, 1971, Cooper was full of praise for Russell as a person, as a Senator, and for his positions on the Commission when matters were in dispute:

The most compelling position he took in the Commission was this: there was a question of whether or not the shot which struck President Kennedy or one of the shots had . . . passed through Governor (John) Connally of Texas on the front (i.e. the jump) seat. . . . Senator Russell just said I'll never sign the report if . . . if this Commission says categorically that the second shot passed through both of them. I agreed with him.

It thus is apparent that at least two members of the Warren Commission were in firm and unchanging opposition to the Commission's single-bullet theory, the one means by which it could dare allege that Oswald alone had fired all the three shots it admitted were fired and on that basis that there had been no conspiracy.

It is also apparent that without Rankin's having violated the Commission's decision and practice, that all of its executive sessions would be stenographically recorded and the Commission's own records would reflect this, *as they do not*.

It is glaringly, truly shockingly, obvious that Rankin had the phony transcript created and then withheld even that from the Members until after the Report had been disclosed, when short of an unimaginable scandal they could not have uttered a word about it -- if they learned.

As Russell did not until May of 1968 when I gave him that official and irrefutable proof of it.

If there is any precedent for this or anything like it in our history, I am not aware of it. Presidents and others have been misled and deceived, but not by crude violations to prevent the existence of any record of it from existing and not by the creation of such transparently phony official substitutes for what was said and decided.

language says it all

Harold Weisberg - ch. 4

stenographic transcripts to me by claiming they were properly classified. I had to file several lawsuits under the FOIA to get those that were withheld. When I finally got to look at the first page of the alleged transcript of that September 18 session I knew immediately that it was an incompetent fake.

Ward & Paul enjoyed and, from my extensive experience with it, deserved an excellent reputation with the Congress. As the editor for the Senate's Civil Liberties Commission (1936-9) I published the transcripts of all that committee's hearings taken down by Ward & Paul's court reporters.

(Stenotypy was then new. The Ward & Paul reporter who reported most of our hearings in shorthand was Arthur Previn. He was the uncle of famed orchestra leader and composer Andre Previn.)

Because they and the other such firms were paid by the page none of them ever used elite type. They all used the larger type size pica typewriters in those years. That meant more pages to be paid for.

The Rankin phony is in elite type. Its first page is word for word in the form which Ward & Paul began each transcript. Even with the correct first page number in the Ward & Paul sequence, page 7652, I knew as soon as I glanced at that page that it was not Ward & Paul's work. And when I turned the page, there was no question about it. The next page is a short paraphrase of a few housekeeping items, without any mention at all of the Russell-Cooper objection and refusal to agree with the Report already in page proof or of any discussion of the single-bullet theory or of any compromises.

*Rankin's
Phony
File*

Apparently Rankin wanted only something to flash if he had to pretend that there was the transcript he had seen to it did not exist. He then delayed distributing those two pages only until after the Report was out. At the moment the Report was issued the Commission's legal life ended and none of the overly busy Commission Members had the time, the need or the interest to even glance at that phony transcript.

Russell never did until May, 1968, when I called this fakery to his attention.

He was aghast. He found it hard to believe. It was also probably outside of all his years of insider experience in Washington.

*Note - Under Hel's Cooper files - there are several Berlin letters - in his Oswald did
1st cite - Cooper, John S. & Steins*

Rankin called an executive session that Russell demanded. It was on September 18, 1964, less than a week before the Report was handed to President Lyndon B. Johnson. And the Commission did meet then. But Rankin also arranged for no court reporter to be there to make the required verbatim record. There was none made.

I have a Xerox copy of the Commission's file on its reporting services from the National Archives. I also have the relevant records of the court reporting firm. Neither set of records reflects any request for court-reporting services at that session and both sets of records prove that there was no court reporter were present, as Russell at the least believed there was because, as he told me, he saw the shorthand being taken down.

The supposed compromise language that Russell and Cooper were led to believe met their objections to the Report as written and then already set in type is:

"Although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission to determine just which shot hit Governor Connally, there is persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds." (Summary and Conclusions, page 19)

Superficially, this seems to accommodate both sides. It seems to satisfy the Russell and Cooper objections by seeming to say that what they refused to agree to "is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission." But in fact it is merely a restating of the basic conclusion to which Russell and Cooper refused to agree. Russell understood this immediately when we discussed it in 1968.

The official account is that only three bullets were fired. Of these one missed entirely and one exploded in the President's head. Thus the only bullet by the Commission's accounting is its first, and it alone has to have inflicted all seven non-fatal wounds in five parts of the bodies of the President and Texas Governor John. B. Connally.

The Commission had no legal authority to classify anything at all, but Rankin had all the stenographic transcripts of all sessions classified Secret or Top Secret. Although the Archives knew the Commission could not legally classify anything at all it stonewalled disclosure of these executive session

The record of their firm refusal to accept that single-bullet theory that they intended making and leaving for our history was denied them by a subterfuge -- really as dirty a trick as there is in our history - by the Commission's general counsel, the man who actually ran it for them, J. Lee Rankin. He was a former solicitor general of the United States, a Department of Justice lawyer who represents the United States before the Supreme Court. The Commission's chairman was the Chief Justice, Earl Warren. He knew Rankin well and trusted him. However, it is not easy to believe that the, also highly respected, Rankin was entirely alone in his coup.

Russell forced a Commission executive session on September 18, 1964 for his making objections a matter of record and for the other Commission Members to consider his objections. Those Commission executive sessions were, by unanimous agreement, required to be recorded by the official court reporter. Those transcripts were classified Top Secret but, by the Commission's own decision, were to be made of each and every executive session and to be preserved. This was confirmed by Commission Member Allen Dulles, former Director, Central Intelligence, at the executive session of January 22, 1964. (Reproduced in my *Post Mortem* in facsimile, on page 487) That January 22, 1964 emergency session, called to consider reports that Lee Harvey Oswald had worked for the FBI. The Commission was deciding to whether to have the court reporter leave so there would be no further record of those deliberations or not. Dulles reminded his colleagues that while he had no objection, "We said that we would have records of meetings and so we called the (court) reporter in the formal way."

Just seconds before, Dulles himself had proposed that the verbatim stenographic record, then being made, be destroyed. But he did record the fact that all such sessions were to have been officially recorded.

Rankin ordered the court-reporting firm, Ward & Paul, not to prepare a transcript. Rankin asked Ward & Paul to give him all carbon paper and stenographic notes when it delivered each transcript. Ward & Paul, an old and respected firm, dutifully delivered that stenotypist's tape. When I learned that the Commission records included the stenotypist's tape, I demanded that it be transcribed for me under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Thus, I came into possession of that Executive Session transcript.