

“Honorable Men,” Chpt. 7 “The Commission’s First Shock”—The Dirty Rumor

p. 91 He notes that the Warren Commission went into executive sessions once Rankin learned that the Texans were looking into a report that Oswald worked for the CIA or the FBI. He notes Russell’s dropping to him that he suspected that Oswald had worked for the FBI or the CIA. . . (Hal mentions the CIA’s 201 file on Oswald (“personality file”). . . Check Ed Tatros email to me. . . on this file. . . This file was immense---some 18 linear feet in length . . .!!! The CIA’s interest in Oswald was serious. . .P.92 Hal notes that the FBI file on Oswald (or political material) had him down as a “Marxist.”

Hal cites his Whitewash book (Report on the WC) pages 10,19, 72,119-121, 123, 137, 7 146 & 192 that Oswald was a Marxist. He cites WC’s own evidence in Whitewash pp. 72, 120-121, 146, 192. . .He cites Uri Nosenko in PMortem pp. 626. The Soviets suspected Oswald was a US “agent-in-place.”

He cites FBI’s CD-1 in which this Political diatribe against Oswald was the chief feature with little else. . .CD-1 does not even acknowledge the known and reported shooting of JFK. . . (p. 93). Hal ends with Russell’s avoidance of work on the Commission. His attendance at the ex. Sessions was the poorest of the Commissioners. . . (p. 93)

P. 94 Hal notes that John Newman (retired Army intelligence major wrote a book about the file. . . .

Leads into the WC session of January 27<sup>th</sup>. . . Rankin’s “dirty rumor” surfaces when he found out that the Texas Court of Inquiry that Oswald had govt. connections. P. 95 he notes Ford’s role in exploiting the WC sessions for his own financial and political gains. . .

P. 97ff Hal goes in his fight w/ govt for Kennedy assassination related files. . .files.

P. 98 Picks up w/ January 22, 1964 WC session . . . This was the first shock. . . Warren called this emergency mtg. What prompted this emergency mtg (called by Warren) followed from a call from Waggoner Carr, the Attorney General of the state of Texas & chairman of its Special Court of Inquiry into JFK assassination.

## Honorable Men, Chpt. 7 “The Commission’s First Shock”

Carr told Rankin of widespread reports that Oswald worked for the FBI. . . and his group would be inquiring into this (which it never did)

Hal got a copy of the transcript. . . .He cites pages in Post Mortem of his efforts to get a copy. . . .(see p. 98 for the page cites if necessary. . .

Query to Me: Do I have a copy of the January 22 transcript in one of Hal’s books???? Carr called Rankin at 11:10 A.M. on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. . . He related to Rankin that Oswald was an FBI informant w/ “number 179, and was being paid \$200.00 per month from September 1962 until the time of the assassination.(p. 99).

After the Texans left, Warren called an executive session for January 27<sup>th</sup> . . .that “dirty rumor” session. (p. 100).

p. 101 Hal makes argument that what disturbed the WC most was the FBI careful leaking had boxed in the WC. Hal excoriates the FBI’s CD-1 or its Report on the Assassination . . .He notes that while CD-1 was not released until December 9, 1963. . . There were leaks from CD-1 (the first vol.) that could have come from no other source. . . The Bureau was leaking, . . . He notes the leaks began on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and crested December 5<sup>th</sup>. (101). Oswald killed the president and there were no other shooters. . .

p. 101 Hoover’s instant vision he boasted to Wm. Manchester. Hoover leaked his conclusion to the crime the afternoon of the assassination—this was his explanation to Manchester. Hal cites here as FBIHQ, 62-109060-NotRecorded serial, June 4, 1964 memorandum from Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach to John P. Mohr, Assistant to the Director. The gist was that Oswald was the lone assassin . . .(p. 102). . . . Thus the WC was really committed to the Hoover solution from the outset of this political tragedy. Hal notes Katzenbach’s assertion that the leaking was work of the FBI to assert control over the investigation. The FBI insisted it was conducting a “no-stones-untuned” investigation” it was only the FBI that had the copies that was leaked. . .The FBI knew immediately it was Katz who had let the cat out of the bag. . . Thanks to Jerry Ford who was the FBI’s main source on what took place in the Commission’s private sessions. . .Ford reported what took place in these executive sessions to DeLoach and DeLoach passed them up the line to Clyde Tolson . . . Ford as finck . . .

Harold Weisberg

February 12, 1964 is in Commission File No. 463. The Commission numbered its files first as "Commission Number," then as in this instance, as "Commission Record" or "CR" and ultimately as Commission Document or "CD," which most are.)

The New York *Times* and the magazine, *The Nation* also had articles in preparation and the report was common knowledge in Dallas.

It had not just "developed" on January 22. What did "develop" then is the Commission's certainty that it could no longer ignore this sensational report.

According to Rankin, even the lawyers for Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald Sunday, November 24 and thus prevented a trial of the one person ever officially considered the assassin, knew of this report. Rankin attributed this information to Henry Wade, Dallas County Prosecutor and later also my friend.

Rankin and Warren decided to ask the Texans to come to Washington immediately and in secret. With no member of the Commission present, they met with Carr, Wade, Dean Robert G. Storey, of Southern Methodist University Law School (Emeritus) and Leon Jaworski, prestigious Houston attorney who was special counsel to the Texas Court of Inquiry. Later he was the chief Watergate prosecutor.

Rankin asked all involved to keep their coming to the Commission entirely secret but the FBI knew before the Texans explained. A Dallas policeman or official, his name is redacted from the record that was disclosed to me in my FOIA lawsuit against the Dallas office for assassination records, CA 78-0322, leaked the information to Dallas FBI Special Agent Robert G. Gemberling, that office's JFK assassination "case agent." He told Gordon Shanklin, Special Agent in Charge and he immediately phoned Inspector James R. Malley at FBIHQ. Shanklin also wrote a memo on this "to files." It is in the Dallas main file on Lee Harvey Oswald, (file No. 100-10461-2799).

After his and Rankin's day with the Texans on January 24, Warren called another Commission executive session for Monday, January 27, that "dirty rumor" session.

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