

Chapter 15 That “Dirty Rumor” Lingers

P. 248-49 he notes Hoover’s testimony to the Commission. . . Did Hoover exhaust the “facts” of the case when he testified before the Commission? PP. 248ff. . . P. 250 Hal notes that Hoover approach from the start was as soon as Oswald was dead ad there would be no trial was to insist that Oswald was the assassin (here he is in agreement w/ Katzenbach)that w/ Oswald dead and no trial to insist that Oswald was the assassin and he acted alone. . . See Hoover WC testimony in 5H99. . . Useful: To lay out the extend of that lieThe extent of this lie. Look at the FBI 5 vols, (CD-1). . . In this supposed definite report on the JFK assassination it does not include all the known shooting and does not even give the cause of death. Before the report was written the FBI declined copies of the autopsy and access to all the autopsy film pixs and X-rays. These facts of the case might have interfered with the Bureau’s conclusions: Oswald did it and he acted alone. . . (p. 250). . . All this when the FBI had not investigated the crime and had no idea who was involved and why—who was involved and why. . . But to establish the myth that the FBI was infallible and Hoover the greatest investigator of all time. . . All who disagreed were “extremists” who “would disagree without any foundation at all.”

Hal notes w/ gusto that when Boggs raised the issue that FBI had not reason to suspect Oswald of such am act. . . Hoover responded “We found no indication at all that Oswald was addicted to violence. . . (5H103-105). P. 251 This left out Oswald’s threat to Hosty and his intention to bomb FBI building in Dallas. . . or his alleged wife-beating. . . Hoover explained Oswald’s behavior was a fact of his . . . Hoover spouted “. . . this man was no doubt a dedicated Communist” . . . and sympathized with the Communist cause. . . (5H104).. . .and so he assassinated Kennedy to install LBJ in the White House. . . complete nonsense.

p. 253 on p. 5H98. . . Hoover definitively assured that Oswald was never an “employee of the Bureau in any capacity or as an informant.” Hoover never holds forth with FBI documents that supported his fiercely determined rejection that Oswald was never an FBI source or asset. . .

p. 254 asked by McCone whether Hoover provided all the FBI had on Oswald, Hoover responded “Yes, we have.” (5H122)> If this were true there would have been 18 linear feet of CIA Oswald records in its 201 or Personality Profile File. This

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Was transferred to the Archives under the 1992 law. . . P. 254 Hal notes that these were only part of the CIA Oswald files. . . He notes on p. 255 that on p. 153 of the January 27th WC transcript if a CIA man would tell it (was he or was he not a CIA asset) Dulles said no. . . He would not or should not reveal this to any source regardless of that source's alleged authority. . .

P. 256 Hal makes point that Rankin owed his position with the WC to Hoover. . . was the extent of that file when transferred to the Archives in under the law in 1992. P. 257 in a Belmont to Tolson 12/3/'63 he noted that Katzenbach square in camp of those who were determined to block Warren's choice for chief counsel Warren Olney. . . The campaign to block Warren's choice. . . P. 259 Hal has a news account of Olney's death . . .stresses his liberal orientation and policies that underscored this. . . Rankin replaced Olney as chief counsel . . .he had access to ex session transcripts and learned that his role w/ WC as chief counsel he owed to Hoover. . . (p. 259). In summary the WC was Johnson's commission w/ members selected for his political purposes, in the nation's interest or w/ the intent that there would be a real investigation that would establish the truth.

P. 261 Hal notes in Never Again! Discusses how LBJ became architect of the Commission . . .

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I have referred previously to the FBI's damage-control tickler that is so illuminating and informative and is so explicit in detailing various means by which Hoover did assert control, including by blackmail, on the Commission.

That tickler is divided into three main topics. The third is "Bureau Relations With Warren Commission." It had five numbered parts under "A. Formation of Warren Commission." The first is "Hoover opposition: memo and Jenkins memo." (Walter Jenkins was one of President Johnson's long-term assistants.) The second is "Katzenbach testimony and Sullivan statement." The third is "Early memos – adversary relationship. (Hoover did have an adversarial relationship with the Commission. He hated Warren.) The fourth is "Hoover blocking Warren's choice for general counsel." The fifth is one of the indications of blackmail, "Preparation of dossiers on staff and members." With regard to this fifth item, there is also, under, of all improbable and entirely inappropriate headings, "Assistance to Warren Commission," which is Part C. under this same third major breakdown, its first item, "Preparations of Dossiers on WC staff after the report was out." That, in the FBI's concept, was part of its "Assistance to Warren Commission"!!!

"Hoover blocking Warren's choice for general counsel" is how that job was available for Rankin. Traditionally, the chairman of all bodies has the right to select their own reference for all such positions. Warren knew and like Olney, who was reportedly Warren's protégé. Olney was a widely respected Department of Justice assistant attorney general. He did not approve of all the FBI did, which, naturally, made him an enemy of Hoover and those close to him. He was also a liberal, and that, to Hoover and the like-minded in the Congress, made him only little less than a Communist.

As I say above, Cartha DeLoach handled Hoover's lobbying and polite blackmail. He would and did also bully, as he reports doing on a part of what follows that I do not quote. At the height of the brouhaha over the report that Oswald had worked in some capacity for the FBI there was much interest in this at the Congress. Three of the most far to the right of the conservative senators were interested and concerned. On February 7, 1964, DeLoach wrote a memo for Hoover, naturally not addressed to him. It

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was to "Mr. Mohr," John P. Mohr, assistant to the director. In four single-spaced pages with narrow set margins DeLoach reports on more than what is relevant to Hoover's keeping Olney from getting the position Warren wanted him in. Another way of putting this is how Hoover controlled our history and what it would record while covering his own ass. By the time DeLoach is toward the end of his report on his very successful lobbying, he has spoken to Senators James Eastland, Richard Russell of Eastland's committee staff, Warren Hruska, and Everett Dirksen, the latter at Sibley Hospital, and to Jay Sourwine. Hruska accompanied DeLoach to the hospital. Before going there, however, DeLoach phoned Hoover to get his permission. Here is DeLoach's own account to Hruska in which, wisely, he omits Hoover's name as that of the one behind that successful operation:

(Former) Senator Dirksen asked me if we were satisfied with Rankin. I told him that Rankin had been appointed as an alternate. I then briefed Senators Dirksen and Hruska on the fact that Chief Justice Warren had first wanted his protégé Warren Olney to serve as Executive Secretary of the Presidential Commission, however, in view of Olney's miserable personality and inefficiency it had been necessary for a number of sources to confidentially brief members of the Presidential Commission other than Warren, as to Olney's background. I told Senators Dirksen and Hruska that as a result of this action the Commission members had overridden Warren concerning the appointment of Olney and that Rankin had been elected as an alternate. Dirksen stated he knew Olney and definitely recognized him as an inefficient nincompoop. (105-82555-2480).

Nicholas Katzenbach, who engineered not a few disasters when he was Robert Kennedy's top assistant, the deputy attorney general, made all of this possible by his blabbing to Alan Belmont, then so high in the FBI, only Hoover's oldest and dearest friend, Clyde Tolson was between them. On December 3, which was almost a week before the Commission had that FBI five-volume FBI report, after working hours, at 6:10 P.M., according to Belmont's memo to Tolson, Katzenbach called him to run off at the mouth about a Commission meeting Warren had called for the next morning. In the course of this Katzenbach sealed Olney's doom:

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Katzenbach said that he had been talking to Chief Justice Warren, and Warren had indicated to him that the chief counsel for the President's Commission will be Warren Olney. Katzenbach thought that this would be most undesirable. Katzenbach said that, as we probably know, Chief Justice Warren thinks that Olney can do no wrong, and he (the Chief Justice) had made the point that Olney is conversant with FBI procedures and thus would be operating in a similar field. Katzenbach said if we have any ideas as to how Olney can be blocked as chief counsel, he would like to have them. I told him that, as far as I was concerned, Olney was an undesirable choice, and if we had any thoughts we would get them to him (62-109060-1716).

*Katzenbach
 directly
 with
 Warren*

Hoover wrote "Horrible" after the sentence reporting that Olney was Warren's choice.

Before Hoover could get his knives flashing inside the Commission, Katzenbach also told Belmont, who promptly bucked it up to Hoover, that "Mr. Katzenbach said that if Warren Olney is appointed as counsel for the Presidential commission, Katzenbach is going to try to get an attorney from the Criminal Division in which the Commission, so he will know what is going on." (Olney did not get the position but Katzenbach got his man, Howard P. Willens, in that spot anyway. Willens was the third in authority on the staff.)

In this Katzenbach was not acting to protect the FBI. He was protecting himself. He conspired with Hoover and others as soon as Oswald was dead and there would be no trial where evidence and the witnesses would be examined and cross-examined, for the assassination not to be investigated and for Oswald to be anointed the lone assassin. Katzenbach then also stated that the evidence was such that Oswald would have been convicted at trial. That was not true and Katzenbach knew it was not true. With an honest man running the Commission the truth would come out and Katzenbach would have been ruined. Along with many others,

Hoover in particular, being seriously embarrassed.

As Hoover later boasted to Appeals Court Judge Edward A. Tamm, formerly a high Hoover assistant, Russell, Dulles and Ford "vigorously opposed" Olney and "threatened to resign if Olney were appointed." Hoover adds piously, that "they blame me for the attack on Olney although I did not raise a