

Hal's notes Re: Interview of Henry Wade probably in 1968

part of the work for which he had been hired! We had a long and not unfriendly phone conversation the morning of Saturday November 9, 1968, when I was in New Orleans. He then agreed to spend a day with me on my return (I left the next day for Dallas). Twenty days later, true to my word, I sent him photocopies of the suppressed Executive session comments about him, gave him my schedule for returning to New Orleans, even where I would stay, very close to where he lives and teaches law. I phoned him his free day, Saturday, December 14. He had by then changed his mind. He refused to see me. There was nothing to discuss. The dialogue he had earlier conceded was a national need was no longer important.

So, history will write the epitaph for Leon D. Hubert, Jr., who teaches law but will not face the record of his own practise of it when his President is murdered and he bears his own share of the responsibility of faking the official accounting.

Wade

Henry Wade is no Leon Hubert. He is a straightforward man. He was ~~xx~~ with the Commission. He was not intimidated by J. Edgar Hoover, who tried, ~~xxxxx~~ sending special agents to Wade with transcripts of his own record as an FBI agent during World War II in Latin America. Hoover doesn't shred his paper. He saves it for blackmail. But Henry Wade stood firm, as the public record shows, in his testimony before the Commission, in which he said it was possibly for Oswald to have been a federal agent of some kind with no adequate record of it existing.

He believed, on the basis of what the police had told him, that Oswald was guilty, and he so said, publicly and wrongly, for ~~xxxxx~~ what he said ~~xxxxx~~ ~~Oswaldxxxxxxixxxxxxx~~ before Oswald was murdered, his murder being possible only because those same Dallas police made it possible, might have made it impossible to try Oswald. He was not alone in the emotional storm of the moment in his error. And he would have prosecuted - save for that murder, which also led to the creation of the Warren Commission, which could not have existed without it. We did not argue the fact. Perhaps some day he will find the time to look at the fact for himself, not through the eyes of such men as Jesse Gurry, then Dallas police chief.

Filed in Agents Oswald files - Weissberg collection 11/22/68

(By an odd quirk of the writer's fate, I had to leave this rewarding interview with Wade to keep an appointment with John Pilger, prize-winning reporter for the "London Daily Express", which has the world's largest newspaper circulation. With his photographer, my good friend, frequent New Orleans host and general credit to mankind Matt Herron, we had a date to interview Curry. The former police chief had recently left employment with Private Investigator R.B. Denham, who had been Melvin Belli's investigator in the Ruby defense, and had just moved into his new offices in the still not-quite-complete Texas National Bank Building. Nothing had changed for Curry, who, with nostalgia, looked back on the old days, when he was top cop, not chief of a bank's security. Nothing he had done was wrong, none of the many lies he told were false, none of the inconceivable things to which he had testified in any way seemed unreal to him. Nothing importable is improbable to the man who demands what didn't happen be believed, who insists that what did happen didn't, the man who above all is responsible for the murder of Oswald and the rewriting of history that enabled.)

I asked Wade about the interrogations of Oswald. He was blunt and to the point, and, like everyone else, including Curry, said you had to know Fritz to understand it. Will Fritz was the police captain and chief of homicide November 22, 1963. My understanding of Fritz tells me that he is the man who saw to it that there was no record of any of the illegal questionings of the accused, conducted over his protests, in a way that would have been exculpatory at a trial and might have prevented a trial. I know him as the man who made notes of his interrogations, as he swore, and then destroyed them, without any official eye blinking at it. I also know him as the man who subsequently taped up a report on these interrogations which was then quite unabashedly, altered and yet was considered evidence. Fritz, as Curry and Wade make clear, has his own way of working, and he worked that way.

Wade, as prosecutor, had wanted to interrogate the prisoner. He found the conditions in Fritz's office impossible. With too many people there, with an

atmosphere that prevented any meaningful interrogation, one in which the prisoner himself could not be in the desirable frame of mind to respond or even be willing to. In his own quite and very direct way, Henry Wade painted a simple, clear picture of total chaos.

He could not question Oswald under those circumstances, with all those unnecessary people falling all over themselves. There were assorted local police there, FBI agents, those from the Secret Service and the Postal Inspector's office. Everyone but the garbage collector in that smelly space, with the over-guarded, handcuffed prisoner charged with the worst crime in the history of the country, and they were expecting him to talk?

One might be led to assume Fritz knew better, that he designed the set to close the prisoner's mouth. Henry Wade did not say or suggest this, and it may not be the case, but it fits the scenario perfectly.

What Wade did tell me, however, makes clear why Oswald had to be killed no later than he was.

"I had arranged to question him at 4 p.m. in the Decker's office", he said.

Henry Decker was the sheriff. It was into his custody that Oswald was being moved when his mouth was permanently closed. In Decker's care, Wade would have seen him alone, in quiet quiet, where there would have been none of the turmoil Fritz maintained.

Wade might have expected Oswald to break down and confess. I suspect he would, with little difficulty, have established his innocence.

In any event, Wade had and still holds a positive belief, ~~and it is this~~
~~he would have seen Oswald in his custody in the Decker's office.~~

It is entirely contradictory to the official fiction of the assassination. He could not have been allowed to pursue it - in questioning or as prosecutor in open court.

This is how he put it in a very honest letter he wrote me October 10, 1968

"I have always felt that there was an accomplice or someone else involved".
 He also said he did "not agree with all the conclusions reached by the
 Warren Commission".

~~XXXX~~ That November morning in his office, over strong black coffee
 pottery
 supplied by his secretary, in heavy mugs, he was more pointed. He was satisfied
 John Kennedy had been murdered as the result of a conspiracy. If, on the basis
 of what he had been told, he was convinced Oswald had been a member of it, he
 also was persuaded there had been a conspiracy. The federal government was
 determined to say otherwise, to insist the people and the world believe
 otherwise, and they rewrote history to do this. The Commission never had any
 other intent, as much of my writing proves. The opening of POST MORTEM does it for
 the first time from their suppressed files.

More, Henry Wade, unlike most prominent Texas Democrats, was not
 opposed to John Kennedy. He is one of the prominent politicians who was not
 unwilling to be associated with the President's name and was openly and willingly
 part of the official welcome to him. Unlike the mayor and other elected officials,
 this was not obligatory with the prosecutor. Henry Wade did it because he
 wanted to, not because he had to.

So, with a liking for the victim and the conviction there had been
 a conspiracy to kill him, Henry Wade could not be allowed to prosecute, not
 even to question the accused.

He wasn't.

He also believed Oswald had been some kind of federal agent, a
 position from which he has never retreated, despite considerable pressure.
 This, in itself, was more than enough to require he be kept out of the
 official investigation.

He was, by Oswald's murder, and by the shredding and burning of his
 words and those of the other Texas officials who dropped ~~her~~ everything to
 rush to Washington ~~and~~ at Washington's bidding and record everything they knew