

Oswald as Sole Suspect

Re: Chapter writing (Subjects/Order)/Box 9/F. 10

@ Brennan on 11/22/'63 89-43-136 B's description of the man in the window . . . he estimated distance where man was "standing" and where Brennan was to be about 90 feet. . . Check w/FBI for this exact distance.. . B volunteered that he was "far sighted" according to his optometrist. . . . Notes that B failed to id Oswald in police line up. . . . but O most closely resembled that man (how much of this was an assist from the FBI???) . (F 10/item 2)

@ Statements by WC assistants Stern and Ely to Rankin, Rankin Papers, RG200, Box 18, Folder 292. . NARA, . Notes (1) that Lee was not mistreated. . . (no evidence) . He told Robert (Comm. Exhibit 323). Note: Oswald time under interrogation. "On Friday he was questioned almost steadily for about twelve hours, w/ breaks. . . Then placed in cell for 8 hours. Saturday for 2 hours and given 12 hours to sleep.. . On Sunday for less than 2 hrs. . . P. 2 notes that upon protest he was allowed to "shower and change clothes." Last deals w/ LHO and legal counsel . . . nothing here that is new. . . except Abt is quoted as saying that it was beyond him to take a case of this magnitude. . . (F 10/Item 3).

@ Note card Rankin Records, RG 200, Box 11, Folder 193, NARA Notes that on 11/24 after Lee's murder Marina, Margarete(sp) and kids taken to rooms at Inn of the Six Flags, Arlington, Texas after dinner Marina was interviewed by SS and it was on a tape recorder!!!!!!! F.10/item 4. . . . **** What about 11/22 & 11/23 & 11/24 for Lee's interrogations. . . . Can I come up with a total of hrs???

@ Belin account to Rankin < Rankin Papers, RG 200, folder 286, box 17, on WC Cooke's Tour of the Murder scene headed up by Belin. . . Full of nonsense (F. 10/item 5).

@ 4 x 6 card John Hart Ely to Stern 4/3/'64 Rankin Papers RG 200/folder 283/box 17, NARA Ely suggests that during 11/22 interrogations for 12 hours . . . "was or could be regarded as coercion. (p. 2). More notes that Ball questioning of McWatters on pp. 2392-2394 (no vol cited) indicated that line up was poorly constituted. . . 8 x 11 Whaley's account p. 11 Whaley notes how LHO protested

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that he was the only one in the line-up dressed differently (he was in soiled T-shirt) where the others were in suit coats or decent clothes. . . pp. 12-13 ELY asks p. 17 were the cards stacked against Oswald??? Ely raised the proposition that the cards were stacked against Oswald in these line ups. . .and the general way he was exposed during these first 12 hours at the Police Department and on TV (to the public) in this circus atmosphere as already "tried and convicted" by Friday night before he was formally charged with JFK's murder. See attached handwritten page for more on this. . .(F. 10/item 6)

@ Rankin to Stern 3/6/'64 RG 200, folder 108, box 7, Rankin Papers NARA, treatment of LHO. . . .pt. 7 note was Oswald's private access to relatives being eased dropped upon. . . .LHO thought so . . .F. 10/item 7)

@ Jerry Ford to Rankin 3/23/'64 , Rankin Papers, box 7, folder 108, Ford has list of questions. One of these was whether LHO's conversations w/ family overheard and taped. . . .Was this suspicion grow from LHO's own suspicions. . .F. 10/item 8

@ Citations re: Will Fritz affidavits, depositions, and WC testimony. . . & Hal's SI item o8 (50 pages) F. 10/item 13

@ Notes on LBJ's phone call to Mrs Tippits on 11/23. . . .tying Oswald to JFK murder by implication. .

@ Alaric Rosman's piece on Capt Will Fritz w/ my notes from his essay F 10/item 14*****

@ Snippets from Wade's press conferences on 11/22, 11/23/and 11/24. . . Read carefully get idea that Wade was doing what he always did---he had a suspect and he was going to convict regardless of the evidence. . .Review carefully. . .Source here Rankin Papers, folder 146, box 9. . .F. 10/item 15.

@ Eisenberg to Ball and Belin, 3/18,1964, Rankin Papers, RG 200, Box 34, folder443. . .Eisenberg cautions that they (Ball & Belin) should determine whether any other TSBD employees left the premises and were "missing" other than

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Oswald. . . .Right question: problem when WC learned that scads of folks were missing it made no difference in the railroading of the dead Oswald. . . .F 10/item 17

@ Belin champions Brennan as key witness for the WC. . . .Rankin Papers, RG 200, Box 32, folder 422. . . . example of Belin's pathetic championing of Brennan as a decisive and key witness whose testimony nails Oswald as the assassin ..F 10/item 18A.

@ Liebeler to Rankin 9/6/'64 RG 200, Rankin Papers Box 32, folder 421. Some of Liebeler's reservations expressed. See p. 7. . . . Oswald's only prints are found on the book cartons on 6th floor. . . .L says does not convince him that LHO moved them in connection w/ assassination, etc. . . . Brennan's description "most probably" led to the radio alert sent out by the police, etc. . . . The one that Sawyer picked up at 12:45. . . . Liebeler has problems with this as he should. . . .
.POINT HERE: CHECK WITH WC REPORT TO SEE IF THIS IS CREDITED TO BRENNAN. Check also w/ statement on p. 36 of the chapter that the description of the shooter in the radio report was similar to Brennan's description . . . (of course B's description was in effect handed to him by the authorities. . . (ight have fun w/ this) F. 10/item 19

@ 2 Belin's to Rankin (classic BS by Belin) affirming Brennan as the key witness in this case, Rankin Papers, RG 200, Box 32, folder 21 and Rankin papers, RG 200, Box 30,, folder 408 ½ . . . see my attached notes. . . .F 10/items 20 & 20A. . .

@ Rankin to Hoover (2 memoes) , 11/2/'64 Rankin to Hoover, Rankin Papers, box 22, folder 348 and Rankin to Hoover 11/28/'64 RG 200, box 22, folder 348. Raise key concerns (implies that at this late date) Rankin suspicious of the weight placed on Brennan as the key witness tying LHO to the shooting.. . ***** pretty late in the game for this.. . Rankin wants Hoover's assurances. . . .F 10/item 21.
There was grave suspicions or rejection of the responsibility placed on Brennan's account. . . the only thing that WC has to tie Oswald to the so-called sniper's nest, etc. . .

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@ Stern and Ely to Rankin, April 13, '64 Rankin Papers, RG 200, Box 18, folder 291 In this Q & A session Fritz comes across as a boob (a Barney Frank-like -- character). Was he being evasive or just stupid. This session was prelude to his appearance before the WC. . . He notes that there were about 200 newsmen in the Dallas PD Clearly it was out of control . . . and compromised any effort at security for Oswald. . . no way Fritz & Co could guarantee the credentials of this hoard of news people. . . He did not considerate within his authority Pto bar the press. . . P. 3 Mention of notes taken during interrogation sessions w/ Oswald. These are Comm. Document No. 81b, pp 136a-136e. . . . Check on these. . . *****P. 3 Fritz gets to the topic: tape recorder. . . . he asked in last 2 annual budgets for \$\$\$ for a recorder. . . no luck!!! Can you image. Classic Barney Fife. . . . He can't be serious. (Throw in the SS had tape recorder/my note). F 10/item 22)