

ENC: mfd: 20 Mar 64

MEMORANDUM

TO: J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Edward A. Conroy  
John J. O'Brien

SUBJECT: Items for Possible Inquiry

March 20, 1964

*File Oswald's evidence*

*File Oswald's case*

*23*

*File = Oswald's fingerprints*

*File = Oswald as Only Suspect*

*#7*

*Suspect*

At your suggestion we have set forth below specific questions which have occurred to us while working on the chronology. We have not included such broad areas of inquiry as Oswald's Mexican trip or Ruby's Cuban trip, etc. In all probability many of these items may have already been considered. However, some of them may be worthy of further study or action.

1. Jack Ruby maintained a safe-deposit box (No. 448) at the Merchants' State Bank in Dallas. In Commission #36, page 379 it states that Captain Will Fritz accompanied by Detective B. L. Shenkle and William F. Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas County, opened Ruby's safe-deposit box. It was empty. Virtually all banks require individuals opening safe-deposit boxes to sign a book or sheet. However, it is obvious that under certain circumstances this could be circumvented. Therefore, in view of the box being empty, perhaps it would be desirable to make inquiries of bank personnel to determine if any access was had to the box by unknown persons in the interim period between Ruby's last recorded entry into the box and Captain Fritz' examination of the box?

2. No fingerprints were found on the three spent cartridge casings found by the window. Would the firing of a cartridge of this type in the rifle have the effect of removing prints from the cartridge casing?

3. Oswald was taken into custody by the Dallas police approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963. He remained in their custody until he was shot at approximately 11:25 on November 24, 1963. Does the Commission have any direct testimony or information from the individuals who were guarding him regarding his comments, actions, etc., as distinguished from official statements by Dallas police spokesmen, most of which seem to be in the nature of a summary?

cc: Mail Room Files  
Mr. Rankin's Chron File  
Mr. Conroy

*Check on this area by Jan (Perry)*

*add to Hoover's Wiley very weak in evidence*

*Relevant question*

*Shave testimony of 2 DPD officers who were*

*watching Ruby's*