

Early Chronology as Background to WC Ex. Sessions 1/22 and 1/27th

@ November 27th appeared the first leak of CD-1 to the national press. The story laid out what was essentially the message laid out in Katzenbach's 11/25 memo. See Manual pp. 58-59

FBI leaking continued at a great volume and the national press carried the story that the FBI's secret report (CD-1) concluded that Oswald was the assassin and he acted alone. There was no domestic or foreign conspiracy.

12/5 Warren Commission session; Warren tells the Commissioners that the purpose of the Commission is to evaluate the evidence and not gather evidence. The Commission was to depend on the FBI, CIA, SS, and Dallas police collection and analysis of the evidence in the case.

Warren did not want a staff of Commission investigators. He did not see the need for subpoena power to question any witnesses since he did not initially see the need to call witnesses. In short, Warren's initial position was simply to sign off on the FBI Report (CD 1).

(That will change after the Commission reads CD-1.) See pps. 70-72 of Manual.

Warren refuses to allow himself to be appointed Chair of the Commission. There was good and historic institutional cause for his refusal.

LBJ ropes in Warren. See Eisenberg Memo for January 20, 1964 staff meeting. Manual p. 81 LBJ holds 40 million dead Americans over Warren's head. . . .The Chief Justice was reduced to tears.

Before the Commission hears its first witness Rankin presents his Tentative Outline of what the Commission will conclude about the Investigation. See Manual pp. 61-69.