

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA WAT DATE 6/24/11

109 200
Rankin
papers
Box 2

F348

Fr Co
negative
Did Oswald's
scoutmaster
say he was
a "patsy"
Carrying
weight
Rankin

NOV 18 1964

Was Rankin
having a car
of his own
doubts a
few concerned
about what
some would
make of
this

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your letter of November 12 responded to our suggestion that it might be desirable to investigate further the sources of the original description of the President's alleged assassin that was broadcast by the Dallas police at 12:03 p.m., November 22, 1963. We had also asked whether the police engaged in searching the Texas School Book Depository were notified of this description of the alleged assassin, and if so, when.

You state that in a letter of January 14, 1964 you notified the Commission that the Dallas Police Department advised that the broadcast was initiated on the basis of a description furnished by an unidentified citizen who had observed an individual approximating Oswald's description running from the Texas School Book Depository Building immediately after the assassination. Since there is other testimony that the description was also based on information given by Howard Brennan who stated that he saw the assassin in the southeast corner window of the building, it would seem desirable to ascertain as precisely as may be possible the sources of which there seem to have been several--on which the description was based and how and by whom the information was transmitted to the Police Department to be put out by the radio dispatcher.

In the report, the Commission has determined that considerable time--15 minutes or more--elapsed between the broadcast of the description and the discovery of the weapon and other material evidence in the southeast corner window of the sixth floor, 37 minutes elapsed before the discovery of the rifle. An even longer time had elapsed since Brennan first told a policeman of seeing the shots from the southeast window. For the men searching in the building seem never to have been notified of Brennan's statement.

Napping
suspect
as there should
have been
was Oswald a patsy
Patsy - not why
the real
advertisers

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Box 22

- 2 -

It is appreciated that the members of the Dallas Police Department Crime Laboratory may have been delayed by traffic in reaching the building, but there is ample evidence that search of the sixth floor had already been undertaken by other law enforcement officers. It would therefore be desirable to know when, if ever, information was transmitted to the officers engaged in searching the building that the shots had been fired from the sixth floor, or more specifically, from the southeast corner window on the sixth floor. It is appreciated that the failure to communicate this information to the officers in the building might well have been the result of the turmoil and uncertainty that prevailed, but it would still be desirable to have this information on the record and available for future reference and research.

Analysis and criticism of the Commission Report in the press (see attached article) has pointed to this significant time lag in the discovery of the carton, cartridges, and rifle. For future reference and research purposes, and to render the investigation more complete, it would be desirable to secure more precise information on these points.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Attachment

"Warren Report--Case for the Prosecution," by Murray Kempton, in The New Republic

AGoldberg/asm
11-17-64

Results of FBI investigation after Rankin's 11/18/64 note?