

CIA- Commission; Oswald 201 file

HW 5/12/79

#590-252 is Helm's response to Rankin's 2/12/64 request for "all information" the CIA had about Oswald before 11/22/79. The date is written on as 3/6/64. *6 Mar 64*

There can be evasiveness in Helm's response, which does not say it and what had been given to the Commission are all such information. Rather does he say that he provides "an exact reproduction of the Agency's official dossier on Oswald..."

He also refers to the CIA's memo to the Commission of 1/31/64. This does not appear to be in the records provided to me.

Attached is an inventory of 30 items sent. It is hand dated 3/6, but a typed note is added referring to a 3/4 inventory "attached for all but addressee." Rankin is the addressee. This seems to say there was a different inventory, not provided, because there is no typed date on the attachment and the written in date is two days later. And it was given to Rankin.
Regarding Lee Harvey OSWALD

It does not list a 201 file. It lists a request for one to be opened. *Transmitted*

From other records I know the CIA gave the Commission a copy of the 201 file. I do not know if it told the Commission that by then its 201 file had been decimated. As of the HSCA testimony some 37 items of it were missing. They had to have been missing in what was given to the Commission or the CIA could have obtained replacements from the Archives for HSCA.

There is no reason to believe that the 201 file contained only copies or even originals. There is reason to believe it was made up of copies of other existing records

It should have been possible to reconstruct the 201 file unless the CIA was determined not to reconstruct it, that it remain gutted.

If either the Commission or the committee had desired to get to the bottom of this gutting of the file either could have.

The memo is captioned to say that it is all the information the CIA had on LHO before 11/22/63. But this is added to the end of the caption, by hand: "As Transmitted to Warren Commission."

This also suggests that the CIA did not transmit all to the Commission.

3. There is attached an exact reproduction of the Agency's official dossier on Lee Harvey OSWALD beginning with the opening sheet dated 9 December 1960. The entire dossier carries the security classification of Secret and consists of thirty documents arranged in chronological order. On the basis of clearance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State, the Department of Navy, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, who were queried by us after the receipt of your letter, we are able to make available exact copies of all materials in the file up to early October 1963. These include:

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ESJ:UPT

6 Mar 64