

Monday, March 16, 1964 (REVISED 1/21/64) TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION, WHICH MET AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE HOTEL MAYFLOWER, NEW YORK CITY. Ford, Cooper, McCloy and the chairman were present and Rankin and Hedlich of the staff.

2733 Without ceremony, meeting opened with Warren's offer of a draft resolution "governing the questioning of witnesses by members of the Commission staff", and gave any single member of Rankin the right to designate whose testimony would be required. The stenographic transcript was required only to "be available for inspection or his counsel", and only his own. When specially granted, permission to buy the transcript from the reporter was meaningless for most people, for it cost too much.

2734 The right to counsel and the rights of counsel were severely limited. For example, counsel could not aduce from the witness testimony not adduced by the staff.

2735 Affidavits were authorized instead of depositions, under the same conditions.

The resolution was approved, unanimously. This was the entire proceeding. The meeting then adjourned. The total elapsed time was 3 minutes! It thus is obviously false when the chairman is made to say, "I wish to read the following resolution". At a fast clip, the actual reading requires more time. This was, then, a pro forma gathering of a minimum quorum for the presentation of the resolution. There was no discussion of any kind. The reporter noted the meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. and ended at 5:50.

It is a truly deliberative body that can find as much as three minutes for deliberating, and for deliberating its basic procedures!

And was this not a late date to be adopting, without debate or consideration, the very basic rules of the "investigation"?

*I don't Warren really had it along!*