

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ROUGH DRAFT

TO : Mr. Rankin

DATE: March 23, 1964

FROM : Mr. Griffin and Mr. Hubert

SUBJECT: Activities of Dallas on Sunday, March 22, 1964.

At approximately 8:PM, we met with Special Agent Forrest V. Sorrels in Mr. Hubert's room at the Adophus Hotel, discussed various aspects of our experiences in Dallas to date, and his own general views on the situation in Dallas. Sorrels repeated to us his account of his first interview with Ruby on November 24. He was unwilling to state that he believed that Ruby was telling the truth in talking to him. We discussed generally the attitude of the Dallas Police Department, and Mr. Sorrels was emphatic in affirming his belief that that all of the top officers of the Dallas Police Department were honest and desirous of learning the truth concerning Ruby's means of entry to the Police station. He said that it is the general feeling among the officers with whom he has come in contact that Ruby did not gain entrance as he claimed by coming down the Main Street ramp when Pierce's car drove out. He also stated that he believed Chief Curry and the other top officers would readily acknowledge the mistakes they had made in handling the transfer of Oswald. Mr. Sorrels stressed the extreme pressures that were placed upon the Police Department by members of the press, and the extent to which the interrogation and handling of Oswald by the Police Department was hampered by the activities of the news media. Sorrels stated that he personally told Chief Curry after he learned that Curry had announced to the press the 10 o'clock movement time that he would move Oswald at an unannounced time during the evening. Curry stated to Sorrels that he did not want to cause hard feelings with the press and would stick to the 10 o'clock departure time. However, Sorrels stated that it was understood by all that 10 o'clock was not the exact time of movement, but that it was the earliest Oswald would be moved. Sorrels stated to me earlier in the afternoon that the exact movement of Oswald depended upon the time that Captain Fritz completed his questioning of Oswald. Sorrels stated that he was present during the latter part of the questioning of Oswald and that he was of the opinion that Oswald was beginning to loosen up. In fact, Sorrels stated that the questioning of Oswald on ~~Sund~~ Sunday morning, November 25, was longer than he had expected because of Oswald's more cooperative attitude. On at least one occasion, Chief Curry entered the Homicide office and inquired of Fritz how long it would be before Oswald was moved, and Fritz indicated that they were having a successful session. Sorrels does not remember that anyone else except Chief Curry entered the office and, of course, he does not know whether Curry communicated Fritz' optimism to other members of the Police Department or members of the press.

Mr. Griffin and Mr. Sorrels talked privately while walking the streets of Dallas between 9:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Sorrels seemed to want to speak

at length about his experiences in connection with the assassination of the President and murder of Oswald. It is Mr. Griffin's view that Mr. Sorrels will be an extremely cooperative witness and that he will frankly acknowledge the difficulties which the Secret Service encountered between November 22 and November 24. Sorrels is extremely disturbed about the failure of his office to give adequate protection to the President. Although he was not pressed on this matter in our conversation, he seemed to desire to assume almost personal responsibility for the events that occurred, and it is a matter of deep sadness to him. Although he tends to stress the futility of attempting to protect the President from snipers or in large crowds, his attitude seems so extremely fair and honest that I think he will welcome and truthfully appraise any constructive suggestions which members of the Commission may offer for the future protection of the President.

Mr. Sorrels also spoke with Mr. Griffin at length concerning relationships between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and both the Secret Service and the local Police Department. Again, he was not pressed on the subject; however, he made it clear he believed there was a certain amount of ill will between the Dallas Police Department and the Bureau during the trade immediately after the assassination of the President and that relationships between those two agencies had never been especially cordial even before that date. He emphasized also the marked change in the cooperation which his office has received from the Bureau since the assassination of President Kennedy on matters of protection as compared with their attitude prior to the assassination. He also commented on Special Agent Hosty. His characterization of Hosty seemed to indicate the rather brusque person who is both supercilious and distrustful with respect to others. Sorrels stated that Hosty told one of his agents that if questioned by the Commission concerning his failure to notify the Secret Service that Oswald was working in a building that was along the route the President's caravan would take, Hosty would state that he was so busy he never read the newspapers and did not know where the caravan would travel. Mr. Griffin asked Mr. Sorrels if it was his understanding that Hosty would indicate that the story he would give the Commission was a fabrication and Mr. Sorrels indicated that he understood that it could be Hosty's attitude. He also indicated that he and perhaps others believed that if there were to be a fall guy within the Bureau, it would be Hosty.

Beginning at about 10 a.m., Mr. Griffin, Mr. Hubert, and SA John Joe Howlett visited the area between 1026 N. Beckley and 223 South Ewing Street. It was noted that the 1000 block on North Beckley begins at 5th Street. This may explain the taxi driver's notation that he let Oswald out of his cab in the 500 block. The cab driver may have been confusing 5th Street with the 500 block. We noted in the 1026 North Beckley area that there is an Enco Service Station directly across the street from that address and that diagonally across Zangs Boulevard is a Sleight Speed Wash-Dry establishment. We further noted that the distance from 1026 North Beckley Street to the nearest bus stop on Marsalis via 5th Street was one-half mile. We observed also that although the spot at which Tippett was shot is closer to Ruby's residence via Patton Street than 10th Street, the 10th Street route would probably

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be the most logical one for a person who was not acquainted with the short-cuts in the neighborhood, or who did not have a map with him. We also noted that there is a Marsalis bus stop at 10th Street.

We also visited the area of the Texas School Book Depository and noted in particular that Houston Street is barricaded on the North side of the Texas School Book Depository. Mr. Howlett indicated that this condition existed on November 22. The area to the North of the Texas School Book Depository consists of a Railroad Yard and various warehouse facilities.

We toured the Police and Court Building with Captain Nichols from about 1:15 p.m. til about 3:15 p.m. Nichols was extremely cooperative and gave the impression of sincerely wanting to find the truth, since he used his own initiative to find places where Ruby might have entered the building. From about 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mr. Griffin and Mr. Howlett toured Irving, Texas, and the Oak Lawn section of Dallas. Irving was visited to view the relationship between the home of Bill Stevens and Mrs. Paine. The houses are not sufficiently close together to suggest that Stevens would necessarily have been aware of the Oswalds. However, Stevens was not employed during the daytime, or if he were particularly friendly with other neighbors in the area it may well have been that he would have known of Oswald. It may be significant that Stevens home had a "For Sale" sign on it when we saw it. It should also be noted that the Carousel Club was closed on Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22. If the Vegas Club was open on Sunday, March 22, there was no particular activity about it.

It was particularly noted that the Vegas Club, Phil's Delicatessen, and the Lucas B & B are within 100 yards of each other. Eva Grant's house is no more than three blocks from the Vegas Club.

The home of Maj. General Edwin Walker was noted to be on the street running parallel to Oak Lawn on block West. Travel distance from the Vegas Club to the Walker residence would be at least one-half mile, probably less. Also, the cavalcade of President Kennedy passed one block from the Vegas Club going East on Lemmon.

Mr. Howlett and Mr. Griffin also examined the spot where Ruby photographed the "Impeach Earl Warren" sign. This sign is located on the Southwest corner of Ross and Central Expressway not far from the central business district of town. The sign is approximately 3-1/2 feet high and 5 or 6 ft. long. It is on a small green metal stand^{and} and is not particularly conspicuous. It can only be seen by one traveling South on Central Expressway or East on Ross. The language "Impeach Earl Warren" and the word "write" appear to be part of a commercially printed and mass distributed poster. The notation "Post Office Box 1757" is obviously^{hand} painted on the sign at the bottom of the sign in small blue letters with Mr. Hill's name and address. Since this

bottom portion had been partially obliterated, it was not possible to read his first name or the complete address, nor was it possible to determine whether or not Mr. Hill's telephone number was on the sign. Mr. Howlette stated that it was his understanding that this was not the original sign that appeared at this spot, but was identical to it. He said the original sign had been painted over or in some way disturbed after Oswald was killed and that this was a new poster. The stander which bore the "Impeach Earl Warren" poster also had stickers on it which said "Serve America - Join the John Birch Society".

Mr. Howlette and Mr. Griffin also visited the vicinity of Radio Station KLIF. KLIF is approximately 1 block South of the Police and Courts Building on Jackson. Agent Howlette informed Mr. Griffin that Gordon McLendon, a friend of Jack Ruby's and the manager of KLIF, is now a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. SA Sorrels told Mr. Griffin that a woman had shot at Mr. McLendon recently as he was boarding a plane at Dallas Love Field.

Mr. Howlette and Mr. Griffin also visited the vicinity of the Ritz Delicatessen, which is approximately 1 block from the Carousel Club.

The Carousel is located on the corner of Field and Commerce, diagonally across the street to the North from the Adolphus Hotel and about three doors from the ~~Carousel~~ Colony Club on the same side of the street.