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May 5, 1964

Senator George A. Smathers  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Smathers:

Recently it was announced by the ("Warren") Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President Kennedy that they had obtained information so important, security-wise, that all the facts involved in the assassination may not be revealed during our lifetime.

In the May 1 issue of the Orlando Sentinel appeared an article stating that a Norman Redlich had been employed at \$100.00 per day as the Commission's legal consultant (copy of article enclosed). Mr. Redlich is an admitted member of the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC).

The House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1961 issued a Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, Ref. pages 69-70, which identifies the ECLC as a Communist front organization. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in its Handbook for Americans, 1956, p. 91, also lists the ECLC as a sympathetic front organization.

I believe that the general public is still suspicious that Oswald was closely tied in with the Communists and that this tie prompted the assassination. With a legal counsel so closely tied in with a Communist front group as is Mr. Redlich to the ECLC, the Commission is surely in security jeopardy, in light of the Commission's statement referred to in my first paragraph above. At the very least the appointment of such a person reveals the political naivete of the Commission and certainly the public will lose all confidence in the Warren Commission.

Communists and fellow-travellers must not be allowed to gain important positions in our governmental affairs - most particularly in such sensitive areas as Mr. Redlich's. I sincerely hope that you will do whatever you can to expose such shocking appointments and to eliminate this type of person from key positions in our Nation's affairs.

Sincerely yours,

  
Richard A. Connell

RAC/a  
Encl.

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By ROUMLIC MATHEPON

(Special Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination by an admitted Marxist was disclosed yesterday to have employed a \$100-a-day legal consultant it knew to be a member of a group organized specifically to defend Communist lawbreakers.

Norman Redlich, a New York University Law School professor, freely admitted he is on the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. And I. Lee Rankin, United States

Collector General under President Eisenhower and state director of the Warren Commission, said he knew this when Redlich was named as a consultant.

THE EMERGENCY Civil Liberties Committee twice has been cited, by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, as having been organized specifically "to defend the cases of Communist lawbreakers."

Rankin told a reporter Redlich had volunteered for the \$100 a day consultant's job with the commission.

commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, is charged with responsibility for putting together the complete story of Kennedy's murder by Lee Oswald, a Marxist former resident of Russia, in Dallas last November.

Rankin said Redlich was employed on Dec. 20, less than a month after President Johnson created the commission.

The New Yorker's salary as a consultant is payable for each day he works, and is the top fee available to a consultant.

Rankin said Redlich works

at New York University. He said he was with the emergency liberties committee application when he was appointed.