

Staff Memos/Chron.

Rosen to Belmont 12/18/63 Rankin asked about WC investigators. R says he was not of the opinion that this was needed although others on the WC were interested. He personally felt that govt. agencies were able handle their own phases of this matter and sincerely hoped it would not be necessary to hire investigators for the Commission.

Doc. # 12 62-109090-NR

January 11, 1964 tentative outline Rankin Memorandum to the Members of the Commission(Rankin papers, Presidential Commission, Administrative Records, 1963-1964, box #1.

Howard P. Willens, January 21, 1964, Memo for the record

Re: Warren explains to staff why he took the position of chairman

Howard P. Willens, January 29th, 1964, Memo for the record

Re: Rankin sets as a target date Feb. 10 for comprehensive memoranda to be prepared by the staff and submitted to Rankin. This required the staff to have analyzed all the agency (FBI) reports as to the evidence in the case to be used for the preparation of questions for the scheduled witnesses. There was opposition from Redlich especially. This was too short a period. Rankin pushed the date back to Feb. 18th. But added that memoranda not only review the investigative reports but outline a future course of action, including witnesses to be called before the WC. (no citation here. Check with Archives guide). Clear Rankin was in a hurry to meet the June deadline.

Note that 1st staff conference was on January 20, 1964.

- With above check FBI reports on how many reports were sent to WC, etc.

Melvin A. Eisenberg to File, Feb. 13, 1964

Re: Memo reporting on 2nd staff conference of January 24, 1964.

Rankin says that their client is the truth. Would like to have report finished and handed into WH by June 1, 1964, before the presidential campaign heats up, providing they were satisfied that the report had "reached the truth." Rankin said that the report would be examined for the next 50 years.

Eisenberg memo to files, February 17, 1964

Re: Report on first staff conference (January 20, 1964)

Warren explains why he took the chair. LBJ pressured warren that rumors had to be dispelled the lives of 40 million Americans, etc were at stake!!!\

Willens memo for record, Feb 12, 1964

Re: Rankin brings the "dirty rumor" to the staff that LHO was an undercover agent for FBI or other federal agency, etc. (CIA) not mentioned in memo. The matter was how to deal with this as it applied to the FBI and not the CIA.

Willins was Rankin's Administrative Assistant and Redlich was Rankin's special assistant.

Redlich, Willins, and Eisenberg had responsibility for review, editing, and avoidance of duplication in the report that the rest of the staff was putting together.

Willens memo to the files, August 24, 1964

Re: Mtg with Warren and discussion of Chpt 8 of the Report. Point here is that the staff was writing the report over the summer months. The chair and Rankin in attendance rest of the commissioners were on holiday or doing other things.

Warren thought this chpt. on protection of the president was the most important in the Report!!!

A copy of Rankin's summary of the 9/18/64 Ex Session.

Last doc. is an accounting of the WC's expenses.