

Telephone Call and Visit from Ed Epstein, Sunday night March 6, 1966

Wm. Manchester has cracked up.

Epstein's book, tentative title "Assassination Inquest," will be published by Viking Press in June, perhaps even May. Give him large advance. Introduction by Richard Rovere. He made contact with Viking through a friend who is a NY Herald-Trib. editor. His only concern is possible libel suit by Marina. Text is only 200-odd pp but the appendix will consist of the 5-volume FBI report.

LHO was FBI undercover informant, worked for Warren De Buveys, sent to New Orleans as agent-provocateur to flush out pro-Castro sentiment. So-called video tape of LHO handing out leaflets may be FBI film taken to record persons accepting LHO's flyers. That is standard FBI procedure.

Also LHO's interview with Quigley at New Orleans jail — in which he gave false information re wife's maiden name, place of their wedding, etc. — Standard procedure to attract FBI attention and bail-out of undercover agents who get into trouble with local police — preserving their "cover."

Some possibility LHO was impersonated in Mexico City. Silvia Duran's description does not correspond LHO's actual appearance. The man in the photo seen by LHO's mother, which she insisted was Ruby, may have been the impersonator or companion of LHO — CIA refused Handly to explain to Liebler who the man in photo was — he was utterly frustrated in attempts to get information on that photo from both CIA & FBI. The photo arrived in Dallas FBI on "1/22/63 before the assassination." might even have been sent as part of protection of JFK — ie — photo of person dangerous to JFK.

LHO's "Secret Service" agent who inquired for telephone was really Pierce Allman — but he had gone first to grassy knoll & RT yards — which means LHO still on street outside T&BD about 10 minutes after the shooting!! Epstein believes he may have been man seen by Roger Craig getting into station-wagon 15 minutes after the shots. If LHO really said "Now everyone will know who I am" as Craig reported, was reference to loss of his FBI "cover."

The allegations LHO was FBI undercover agent originated (3) with Dep Sheriff Allen Sweatt who is in charge of CTD and liaison to FBI on anti-subversion program Dallas-Houston area. There was violent disagreement in the WC when Rankin ran to JEH with the allegations — Russell and Cooper strongly protested, had wanted independent inquiry by WC staff, were furious with Rankin & Warren for going to JEH.

Epstein believes LHO was instructed to bring two certain rods to TSBID Friday morning. There is no evidence linking the rifle with the blanket. The fiber evidence is absurd.

The "goat" ballistic tests were absurd too, the calculations were entirely erroneous. Dr. Hight was the qualified expert ~~by~~ but he had been ill and Dr. Olivier — not so qualified — really gave the testimony.

Dr. Finck refused to testify on any part of the autopsy except the head wounds — because the "findings" on the other wounds were suspect. Possible Finck was not permitted to examine any part of the body except the head. FBI report shows no bullet through neck. Epstein consulted NY Medical Examiner — Dr. Milton Halpern — who did not accept autopsy report — said impossible for

bullet to go through neck without leaving  
1/2-inch path of seared tissue. Also, Humes' (4)  
2 certificates dated 4/24/63 were done on 2 different  
typewriters. Reason to believe the "burned note"  
certificate really done in March 1964.

Epstein's book deals most harshly with Specter  
and Humes. Humes autopsy report is spurious.

Hiebeler was dressed down by Rankin Jr  
pursuing the Odio story. The lawyers in  
general were frustrated, could not deal  
directly with WC ~~members~~ members but  
only thru Rankin. The ~~lawyer~~ <sup>Fedlich</sup> who drafted  
Chapter IV was going to omit the defect in  
the rifle scope - ~~Fedlich~~ <sup>Hiebeler</sup> protested  
vehemently - said it would compromise  
the whole report - so it was mentioned,  
but as a "help" to the rifle man !!!

FBI interviews were restrictive - ie -  
if sent to ask a witness what he saw  
in 6th floor window, that was all he  
asked and reported. If the witness volunteered  
that he saw 2 men in a different window  
with machine-guns, too bad, would not  
be included in FBI report on the  
interview !!

The photo of JFK's shirt in the Exhibits was deliberately doctored to block out the bullet hole. EE's book will include photo of shirt showing the hole — way down in the middle of the back !!

Feels LHO composure 11/22-11/24 was result his confidence FBI would fail him out and that he was not in danger.

Mark Lane admitted to EE his story of Ruby-Tippit - Weissman meeting at Carousel Club was a deliberate fabrication, so far as Weissman concerned. Was told by Thayer Waldo of Ruby-Tippit meeting but added (invented) Weissman part to get liberal - left wing sympathy. WC could have jailed Lane but decided not make martyr of him. Anyhow, he helped rather than harmed the WR because he was irresponsible & dishonest. He sent an "agent" to EE to steal his documents! But he is "nice fellow" in EE's opinion, merely "amoral."