

Portrait of the Assassin by Gerald R. Ford and John R. Stiles, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1965

Chapter 1. Plunged into astounding problem January 22, 1964. Rankin got phone call from Texas, Attny Gen Waggoner Carr, saying that LHO was an undercover agent for FBI. Rankin called emergency meeting WC late same day. WC decided ask Carr, Wade and any other Dallas officials who knew the allegations come immediately Washington for secret hearing. They came, told that LHO was actually hired by FBI with undercover-agent number 179 was on FBI payroll on 11/22, \$200 a month starting September 1962. Carr etc slipped out of Washington 24 January. (Friday)

Stories broke in press over that weekend, also Harold Feldman's story in The Nation. Feldman cited stories by Joe Golden in Philadelphia Inquirer 12/8/63 and Lonnie Hudkins in Houston Post 1/1/64.

WC reconvened 1/27/64 to consider what steps take. Rankin said he and Warren had discussed various possibilities; Rankins suggested WC go to JEH and ask him to produce facts to put an end to speculations, telling himx at same time that WC would feel free make such other investigation and take such testimony as necessary, to satisfy Am. pple. undercover-agent out of question. (NB he assumed from 1st not true)

Rankin replied to qu from Boggs that alternative would be examine Hudkins, Hosty, Hoover, "right up the line."

Warren said his own suggestion was first to find out from "these people" as far as they could if there was any substance to the allegations<sup>or</sup> if "just plain rumor." If Hudkins claimed privilege, could go to his publisher and enlist him to "have this man tell us where he got his information." He said "We must go into this thing from both ends, from the end of the rumormongers and from the end of the FBI...I wouldn't be in favor of going to any agency and saying, 'We would like to do this.' I think we ought to know what we are going to do, and do it, and take our chances one way or the other. I don't believe we should apologize or make it look that we are in any way reticent about making any investigation that comes to the Commission."

Ford says it was concensus of all 7 men that only way proceed was conduct "extensive and thorough hearings of as many witnesses as was necessary...where doubts cast on any US agency, independent experts would be hired and the investigation conducted in such a way as to avoid reliance on a questioned authority." (pages 13-25)

The only trace of Hudkins in the RM CEs is in CE 2003 p 327, interview on events of 11/24 ie shooting of LHO and quick appearance Ruby's lawyer Tom Howard. He was not a WC witness; nor Golden, nor Feldman; nor Bill Alexander; nor Waggoner Carr.

Hudkins is also subject of JEH testimony (5H/16) though not named; it emerges from that testimony that after all the grandiose self-searching and noble decisions taken by WC, they left the investigation of the rumors not to "hired independent experts" or even to its own staff but to the very agency suspected, i.e. the "questioned authority."

#### R A V E S

Ford: "The monumental record of the President's Commission will stand like a Gibraltar of factual literature through the ages to come...The Commission labored ...with soul-searching thoroughness. Before agreement was reached by the Commission, each sentence had to measure up to the unofficially adopted motto of the Commission, 'Truth is our only client here.' To the best of the ability of seven dedicated public servants and a staff of valiant workers, that ideal was fulfilled." (pp 491-492)

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