

June 9, 1975

Mark G. Eckhoff
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Washington DC 20408

Dear Mr Eckhoff

Once more thanks are due you for the material you sent me and for your letter of June 6. Unfortunately, the need of the truth seeker to authenticate the historical record is endless and once again it is necessary to tax your patience and courtesy with new requests.

The back of page 23, the last page, of the transcript of Warren Commission executive session of December 6, 1963 bears a stamped notation: "Copy from the National Archives, Record Group No. 272;" and, under it, the handwritten notation: "December 6, 1963 Transcript." The back of page 33 of pages 23-33 of the transcript of the session of December 16, 1963 bears the same stamped notation and an appropriate handwritten notation of the date and page nos. But neither set of pages, unlike the transcript of executive session of January 22, 1964, for example, bears any notation, stamped or handwritten, stating it has been declassified. Was this an oversight? Or is it possible these pages were never classified at all and were "withheld from research" for other reasons?

Two other matters are more important. Authenticity of the transcript of the executive session of January 22, 1964, recently "released for research" after having been classified for more than ten years, is questionable because (a) the official reporter's "notes," taken on January 22, 1964, were not transcribed until "recently;" (b) the transcript was "prepared" by someone other than the original reporter; (c) the reporter is not identified; (d) the identities of "A," "Q," and "Sides," in the transcript are unknown, "A" and "Q" having been present and participating in the session; and (e) a cover page of the transcript, identifying time and place of the session and listing the Commissioners in attendance has not been made; all that is available is a "slip of paper filed with the reporter's notes (which) apparently indicates" the presence of five commissioners; identity of the individual who made and filed that "slip of paper" not being established. Is it possible to obtain a Xerox copy of that piece of paper? Can you suggest a means of identifying the original reporter? And the transcriber? And the date of transcription?

Not to know the "total number of executive sessions of the Commission" means the historical record is incomplete, and is, moreover, a lacuna on which suspicion will feed in ironic punishment of the Commission, reated ostensibly to dispel rumor and establish truth. Is there nothing in the Archives to indicate the responsible Commission staffer who can establish the number of executive sessions the Warren Commission held?

In anticipation of your helpful reply, I am

Gratefull and hopefully,

Thomas Stamm