

I called Mr Epstein to invite him over to meet Mrs Field on October 3rd; unfortunately, he will be at Ithica by then. We had a talk about his work, and mine. He had heard from Salandria something about my subject index and recalled that when he was at Liebeler's (home[?] or office?) Liebeler had shown him a letter which I had sent. I found this surprising, since Liebeler had never replied. Epstein seemed to think that Liebeler had intended to reply; he was not sure what had led Liebeler to bring up my letter--perhaps a discussion of Oswald's "habitual" "prevarication."

Epstein has met and spent time with every member of the WC (except Warren himself) and each of the counsel. He believes Liebeler had the toughest assignment --Oswald's motive--and that no motive has been identified. Epstein commented that in his view Oswald's life history suggested that he "would do anything." I disagreed, pointing out that he had consistent loyalties and convictions which appeared to guide him, as a general rule, although there were some shadow areas.

Epstein believes that Eisenberg was by far the most brilliant of the WC's counsel and did a good job on his area (the weapon). I mentioned my contacts with Eisenberg and my impression that he was fundamentally honest; but had not done a satisfactory job, in my opinion. Epstein was interested to learn that I had sent Eisenberg a copy of the Klein's ad and wondered what his reaction had been; I explained that he had not replied but that I had written to him again only that morning on a number of matters.

Epstein said that Boggs was ill-informed about the case; that Russell was shrewd and though he attended very little, he had a "representative" i.e. Alfreda Scobey, and that he had made a valuable contribution in his cross-examination of Marina. No one except Warren had any confidence in Marina or her testimony.

Rankin is a rather weak or mild person; he was a sort of handmaiden to Warren and did what Warren wanted. Jenner had done the lion's share of the work. It was astonishing how little time had been given by counsel; they were paid by the day, on the basis of vouchers which Epstein has seen (he had access to the payroll!). This is one reason why the investigation was superficial. Epstein explained that his book (doctoral thesis), which he hopes will be published (he did not seem certain) deals solely with the WC's working procedures. To my question, would his book please the authors of the WR, he said "no." His access to the WC's working papers and records indicated that assignments were framed in such a way as to obviate any impartial quest for the truth about the assassination--for example, counsel was assigned to interview the witnesses who were on the overpass so as to demonstrate that shots could not have been fired at the motorcade from that location. Other information volunteered by such witnesses received scant attention or was ignored.

He confirmed that Francis Adams (whom he interviewed also) had put in only two days of work during the whole life of the WC; Adams "wanted to lend his name" to the investigation. I said that I had heard that Adams pulled out because he was dissatisfied. Epstein did not confirm this, nor did he deny it either--he was vague on this point, and I had the impression that he was keeping any information he might have confidential.

Epstein mentioned the names of two people, one on the West Coast and one in Brooklyn (I didn't have a chance to jot the names down but they were unknown to me), who are apparently working on (against) the WR. I will try to get more information if I am in touch with Epstein again. He said he would try to visit me before departing for Ithaca.

I asked Epstein bluntly, after all this, whether he believed Oswald was guilty as charged. He replied that it was not a question of who but of how many--that is, Oswald might or might not be implicated, there was not sufficient basis for a decisive judgment and there was no real evidence against him and no real eyewitness identification (he discounts the prints on cartons which Oswald normally handled anyway, discounts Brennan, etc.)--but ^{HE} seems to feel that the assassination was carried out by a group of conspirators.