

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

Washington, D. C.

December 6, 1963

Honorable Waggoner Carr,
Attorney General of Texas,
The State Capitol,
Austin, Texas.

Dear General Carr:

The President's Commission has asked me to respond to your full and courteous letter of December 5th in which you describe the proposed work of the Texas Court of Inquiry. The Commission greatly appreciates your desire to facilitate its work and to help to insure that an accurate and responsible report with respect to all of the relevant facts be made to the President.

All of the members of the Commission are aware of the deep interest of Texas in the tragic event which occurred there and with respect to which all of us are exercising the responsibilities laid upon us. We share your view that it is desirable to have State officials do everything possible to uncover all the facts, and are appreciative of the availability of these facts to the Commission.

As you know, at this time the Commission is organizing its procedures and we do not yet have available the comprehensive report of the FBI and of other investigative agencies both Federal and State. While we expect to receive this material soon, it will take time to analyze it thoroughly, and I am sure you will agree that there may remain matters which will require further investigation before we feel that we are in possession of all of the relative data upon which to make evaluation and judgment. We are most anxious, as I am sure you are, to take no steps which could impede investigation or which could lead the public to mistaken conclusions based upon partial factual information. In addition, as you point out in your letter, the Commission, as well as the Texas Court of Inquiry, must be extremely careful not to prejudice in any way the trial in Texas of Jack Ruby.

The Commission would not wish to interfere in any way with you or other State authorities in the conduct of matters which are your responsibilities, and in which, as you point out, the State of Texas has a proper and important interest. At the same time, it is the view of the Commission, for the reasons stated above, that a public inquiry in Texas at this time might be more harmful than helpful in our mutual search for the truth. Recognizing that the timing of this inquiry is your responsibility and your decision, we cannot refrain from the suggestion that you consider the wisdom of postponement of this Court.

It would be the Commission's desire that you and your Special Counsel, or either of you, participate in the Commission's work, and counsel with it, it being the Commission's wish that you as the representative of the State of Texas be fully advised of the progress that is made in the course of the Commission's investigation and advance such suggestions as you consider helpful to the accomplishment of the Commission's assignment. It may develop that the Commission would deem it advisable that testimony of certain witnesses residing in Texas should be taken before a Texas Court of Inquiry, and in that event we would expect to call on you to render this additional assistance.

Let me assure you of the desire of the Commission to work most closely with you and of our conviction that in a spirit of close cooperation, we can responsibly meet our independent obligations. The Commission would be glad to discuss further with you as our inquiry proceeds the ways in which we can best work together towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Chairman.