

February 14, 1964

Honorable Earl Warren  
Chief Justice of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chief Justice:

Leon Jaworski has reported to me on his recent attendance on the testimony of Marguerite Oswald before the Warren Commission, on his review of the testimony given by Marina Oswald and of his talk with you and General Rankin. I am gratified that these opportunities were extended to him as my special counsel, and it is my strong hope that a continued course of cooperation of this nature will guide our joint efforts in the future.

I may not have made clear the need that is present for me to know and to be present, either personally or through special counsel, when the Commission's hearings are held. You will recall that with your approval I released a statement to the news media announcing that the Court of Inquiry would be deferred and that by arrangement with your Commission, I and my special counsel would "participate in the Commission's work." In recent weeks the newspapers carried comments from you confirming that in actual practice this cooperation and participation was being carried out. However, when it is announced nation wide that the widow of Lee Oswald is appearing before the Commission to give her testimony and it develops that I have been neither notified nor invited, it leaves me in an awkward and embarrassing position to answer the inquiries of the news media, as well as my constituents, as to why neither I nor my special counsel are present. Having in mind the announcement of cooperation and participation at the time the Court of Inquiry was withdrawn, the news media and my constituents naturally speculate, when I am not represented at the Commission hearings, that either (a) I am indifferent to my responsibilities in this investigation or (b) that the "participation in the Commission's work" is not real.

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It is not easy for me to convey to you the feeling of Texas newspapers and the citizenry generally of our state on the subject of this investigation. The tragedy happened here, the Governor of our state was seriously wounded and our people feel that they are entitled to a real and not merely nominal part in the investigation. It was in this spirit that I assembled the Dallas officials, obtained from them all of their reports of investigation and sent them to you. I am certain that your examiners are finding these reports to be of very substantial assistance. Frankly, to me they were much more revealing and much more helpful than the reports of investigations I had read in Washington. In addition, I have obtained an assurance from the Dallas officials that complete cooperation would be extended to your Commission and its representatives. Too, I believe that your general counsel will agree that every assistance he has sought from me has been extended and it is my genuine desire to continue this course of cooperation.

In the light of this background I believe you can understand my extreme disappointment when I learned from the press that Marina Oswald was appearing before the Commission without my having received any notification from the Commission. I was impelled to conclude that this was not an oversight because before leaving your office on the occasion when I brought Messrs. Wade and Alexander to Washington for you to interview, General Rankin advised me that while the date of her appearance was not fixed, I would be advised when it was so that I or my representatives could be present. This assurance was merely a repetition of his earlier commitment to me to this effect.

If my letter of February 4 to General Rankin caused any offense, I regret it exceedingly and I assure that it was not so intended. Except for the Marina Oswald matter, I have been most happy with the liaison that existed between the Commission and my office; and now with the benefit of Leon Jaworski's report on his discussion with you, I see no reason for any deviation from the program of cooperation we originally charted and announced to the public.

Just as I have honored every request you and your counsel have made of me for cooperation and assistance, I request in turn that I be advised in advance of the hearings you schedule for the taking of testimony so that either I or my special counsel may be present. It may be that some of these hearings will not be considered sufficiently significant

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by me for my representative or me to be in attendance. Needless to say, I do not expect to be present or represented at any deliberations or discussions of the Commission. In our discussion of this matter it was made clear that deliberations of the Commission were not to be included in our "participation" and I certainly respect that view.

It is my hope that because of the Commission's fair and thorough investigation I can in good conscience and with full confidence abandon the calling of a Court of Inquiry, but I am sure that you realize that this I can do only if I am permitted to keep abreast of the Commission's work in line with my assurance to the people of Texas when the Court of Inquiry was deferred at your request.

Yours very truly,

Waggoner Carr

WC:cr

bcc: Honorable Leon Jaworski

bcc: Honorable Robert G. Storey