

Secret Service

MAR 26 1964

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Honorable Carroll R. Ford  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman:

I am glad to respond to your two letters dated March 23, 1964, requesting that certain witnesses be called to testify before the Commission and raising questions regarding the depositions to be taken from doctors in Dallas and Washington.

It is certainly my plan to recommend that the Commission call Secret Service Agents Lawson and Morris to testify before the Commission. It is my current thought that this be done at a time when the testimony can also be secured from Mr. Smith, Head of the Detective Research Section of the Secret Service. As you know, we are currently in the process of securing some basic information from Secret Service regarding its operations, and I suggest that these three witnesses be called after this information has been obtained and studied by the staff. I anticipate that we will be able to take the testimony of these witnesses during the week of April 6, 1964.

With regard to possible witnesses who were on the triple overpass at the time of the shooting, we have taken steps already to investigate this matter fully and identify those persons who would be the best witnesses to bring before the Commission. Last week the Federal Bureau of Investigation was requested to initiate a general investigation into this matter, which is designed to supplement the fragmentary reports we have already received from the witnesses around the overpass at the crucial time. Deputy Sheriff Boone and Deputy Sheriff Bill Hurray, currently scheduled to testify tomorrow, both infernal members of our staff in Dallas last week, that they have some information to supply regarding this

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cc: Mr. Rankin  
Mr. Willens

matter. When the investigation is complete, I certainly will bring before the Commission witnesses with relevant testimony to provide regarding any activity on the eve of the assassination.

I have brought the questions regarding the radical testimony to the attention of Mr. Spector, currently in Dallas taking the depositions of doctors at Parkland Hospital. We have just received materials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in response to an earlier Commission request, setting forth the result of the autopsy conducted on the body of Lee Harvey Oswald. I am bringing this to the attention of Mr. Janner and Mr. Nichols, currently in Dallas, so that they may consider whether to explore this matter by taking the depositions of the doctors involved.

I shall follow-up on all these matters to insure that your questions are resolved to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel