

February 24, 1964

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You will remember my reluctance to serve on the President's Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I told you at the time that the pressure of other duties was so great that I did not see how I could possibly give the work of this Commission the time and effort that its importance demanded. I explained to you my onerous committee responsibilities, including the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, as well as membership on several other Appropriations subcommittees, on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, and that, in addition, I was charged with special responsibilities in connection with highly controversial legislation that will be considered at this Session of the Congress.

Since my appointment, I have given as much time to the work of the Commission as was possible for me to do in the pressure of other duties. Though at times I have felt I was a part-time member, I did manage to attend the organizational meetings and to hear some of the testimony of the first two witnesses who testified.

In my experience as a trial lawyer many years ago, I found it was possible to evaluate testimony from the written page much better if one had had an opportunity to personally hear and observe the witness testify.

I had hoped to hear part of the testimony of the last witness (Robert Oswald). However, perhaps due to the fact that I had not been regular in my attendance at the meetings of the Commission, I have only been notified intermittently as to the

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