

4 - " 15
Copy 1966

237

TEXAS
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Correspondence File



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

November 23, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William Moyers

SUBJECT: World Reaction to Oswald's Slaying

The Communists are making a determined effort to attribute the assassination of President Kennedy to a rightist conspiracy, and the killing of Lee Oswald by Jack Ruby has given them new ammunition.

The press of the free world has headlined the killing, evidenced doubt about Oswald's guilt, and given some credence to the theory of a conspiracy.

The Russian news agency TASS said today: "The 'mysterious' murder of Lee Oswald, accused of assassinating President Kennedy, cuts the ground from under the anti-communist, anti-Soviet, and anti-Cuban hysteria which the yellow press is trying to whip up in order to distract attention from the real perpetrators of the abominable crime... The whole thing is obviously a crude provocation. Americans have long become accustomed to southern police always trying to put the blame for crimes by racists, and their own crimes, on 'communists' and 'foreign agitators.' "

The line is being followed by the Communist satellites, including Cuba, and by Communist papers in the Free World.

First reports by wire and telephone from major world capitals give the following pattern of reaction:

Mexico City. Headline treatment, criticism of U. S. police methods, and a report that Ruby got near Oswald by paying off the

police at his bar. The Daily Express editorialized, "Was there fear that Oswald would talk and compromise persons or institutions interested in the death of the political hero, of the most powerful country on earth? Does all this reveal a network of people whose motivating force was the sacrifice of Kennedy?" Novedades wrote, "There will always be doubt as to Oswald's guilt."

Stockholm. Sweden's domestic radio service said, "Those responsible for Oswald's safety and solving the assassination of President Kennedy appear, to say the least, in strange and even negative light."

London. Oswald's killing was given heavy front-page play, with large pictures of the actual shooting. The Guardian said: "This grotesque episode is bringing more confusion on the shame of Dallas." The Daily Herald wrote: "Lynch law has followed assassination. The corruption of high tragedy by the personal vengeance of a Dallas club owner has brought total fantasy to the American scene." The London Times reported that people at the scene cheered the shooting of Oswald. The Daily Express described Dallas as a "schizophrenic" city, "a rich breeding ground for the lunatic fringe -- the city without a soul." The communist Daily Worker said the shooting "is bound to increase the already strong belief that something is very rotten in the Texas town of Dallas."

Santiago, Chile. Oswald's shooting was given sensational treatment. Ultima Noticias speculated on the reasons for the "great facility" with which Ruby was able to approach Oswald. El Mercurio hinted that the killing "involved more than a man taking justice into his own hands."

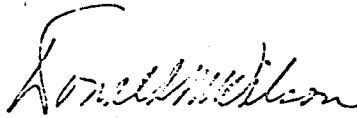
Paris. The two largest evening papers today are out with headlined questions. France Press, under the banner "A Tragic Doubt," asks whether Oswald was really guilty, whether there was a conspiracy, and whether he was killed to keep him from talking. France Soir also says that the killing of Oswald raises questions, whether he was alone, why Ruby shot him, why the police did not prevent the shooting, and whether Ruby knew Oswald.

100.5

Buenos Aires. Heavy straight news coverage, with the exception of a cartoon captioned "Now we will have to assassinate the assassin of the assassin."

Bonn. Large headlines, and much speculation over the implications of the slaying. Some papers made a point of Oswald's denial, and of the failure of the police to prevent his shooting. Several writers said the killing will help the Soviets with their propaganda line.

Cairo. The important daily, al-Jumhuriya, said of the shooting, "This probably goes to show that Oswald was the actual killer, otherwise no one would have taken the trouble to kill him in order to bury his secrets with him. Moreover, the strong denial of the American communist party of having anything to do with the killer, Castro's statements denying any relationship between Cuba and Oswald, and Pravda's charges that enemies of East-West rapprochement are behind the assassination are not mere bubbles in the air."



Donald M. Wilson
Acting Director

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

Statement of Attorney General
Waggoner Carr

November 26, 1963

For Immediate Release

SUBJECT: Purpose of Forthcoming Court of Inquiry

Because of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, many facts concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connally, and the murder of Dallas police officer Tippit will be left unanswered unless some forum is available to fully examine motives and evidence concerning this case.

It is necessary that all investigating officials, local, state, and federal, have an opportunity to place such evidence on record and before the public in a judicial manner. No investigations held heretofore are conclusive as they have not been evaluated before such a body, nor before the public. The witnesses have not been publicly examined under oath with penalty of perjury and, under the present circumstances, the Court of Inquiry is the only such forum available which will provide for such interrogation.

Obviously, had Lee Oswald not been slain, this action would not be necessary as the evidence would have been presented in a Texas court of law.

It is hoped that, through the cooperation of all investigative agencies involved, the results of this Court of Inquiry will leave no doubt in anyone's mind concerning the events of November 22-24.

C O P Y

Already answered
(WR)

November 20, 1933

Mr. Walter Cole
President, State Bar of Texas
State Bar Building
Austin, Texas

Dear President Cole:

I have noted that you are my past chair, of the Bar of Texas, and should that you are now chair of the State Bar of Texas, and the Commission on Administration of the Profession of Texas. As a former member of the State Bar of Texas, and as a former attorney, I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas.

I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas.

I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas.

I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas, and I am sure that you are familiar with the work of the State Bar of Texas.

Very sincerely,
J. L. Jones

Very truly yours,

J. L. Jones

J. L. Jones
County Attorney, Hamilton
County, Box 110, San Antonio,
Texas

JLJ/ss

From the Office of
Attorney General Waggoner Carr

December 2, 1963
For Immediate Release

Attorney General Waggoner Carr today announced the appointment of nationally-known Houston Attorney Leon Jaworski as Special Counsel for the upcoming Texas Court of Inquiry. The Inquiry is to investigate and ascertain all facts concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connally, and the murders of Dallas police officer, J. C. Tippit, and alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. These facts are then to be transmitted to the newly appointed Presidential Commission for its use in preparing its report.

Carr's appointment of Jaworski is the result of his announcement in Washington that a Texas Court of Inquiry would be held, and that he would seek the "outside" assistance of outstanding attorneys in addition to the counsel of local and state officials.

Jaworski is a partner in the Houston law firm of Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates and Jaworski. He is 58 years of age and was born in Waco, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Law Degree at Baylor University in 1925 and his Master of Laws Degree at George Washington University in 1935. He was also awarded a Doctor of Laws Degree at Baylor in 1960.

He has been past presidents of the State Bar of Texas, Houston Bar Association, and the American College of Trial Lawyers, and is a member of the Board of Regents of the latter organization. In addition, Jaworski is a member and trustee of the Southwestern Legal Foundation, Fellow, American Bar Foundation, and is a member of the American Law Institute, the Houston Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and the American Bar Association.

Jaworski served during World War II as a Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Department. He served as a Trial Judge Advocate in major military trials held in the United States and later as Chief of the War Crimes Section of the United States Army in the European theatre. In his latter capacity he personally prosecuted the first major war crimes trials in the European theatre. He is a holder of the Legion of Merit award.

In the area of civic and charitable work, the appointee is a past President and Director of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, past President of the Houston Chapter of the American Red Cross, and is chairman of the Joint Administrative Committee of the Texas Medical Center and Baylor University College of Medicine.

From 1955 through 1961, he was Protestant chairman of the Houston chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc. Jaworski is also a trustee of

the Houston United Fund, the M. D. Anderson Foundation, the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Sam Rayburn Foundation, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Bill of Rights Foundation.

In accepting the Attorney General's appointment, Jaworski said "I am greatly impressed with the cooperation and the spirit of harmony which exists between local, state, and federal governments in this matter. I am honored to have been asked to serve as Special Counsel for this very important Texas Court of Inquiry, and I pledge to cooperate with the Attorney General to see that a complete and thorough disclosure of the facts is made to the public."

Upon notification of Jaworski's acceptance, Carr said "I am very grateful to Mr. Jaworski for his willingness to serve as Special Counsel. The active participation of one of the nation's outstanding lawyers will be of inestimable value in developing all of the facts of the Judicial hearing. These facts will then be useful to the newly-appointed Presidential Commission in reaching its ultimate conclusion."

Carr concluded, "I hope to be able to announce the selection of the other Special Counsel within the next few days."

NOTES OF GENERAL CARR ON
COURT OF INQUIRY

November 26, 1963

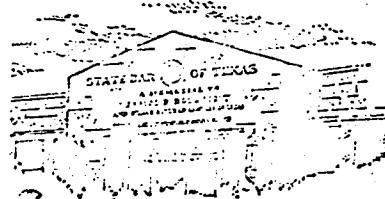
I talked at the direction of Mr. Walter Jenkins with Mr. Abe Fortas, a well known and highly respected attorney in Washington. His office number is FE 8-3700. Mr. Fortas informed me that he had been assigned to co-ordinate the FBI, Department of Justice and Texas Attorney General's efforts regarding the assassination of the President. He pledged the full co-operation of the federal government in working with the State of Texas. To illustrate this to the world, he noted he had ordered Assistant Attorney General Herbert Miller, Chief of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice in Washington to call on me that night. Mr. Fortas suggested a press conference and pictures which would aptly point out the close co-operation between the two governments. He stated that the report of the FBI would be made available to us in order that the State of Texas might conduct our court of inquiry. He authorized me to say upon questioning that I had, at all times, been in contact with and consulted with the White House Staff.

I talked with Colonel Garrison on the phone and asked him to determine who went to Mexico with Oswald at the time he was there from September 26 thru October 3rd, 1963. He was advised to check all ports of entry on the border. Several hours later Colonel Garrison made a preliminary report stating that two blonde women and another man either went from Texas into Mexico with Oswald or came back with him and they would make a more complete report later.

I was advised by District Attorney Henry Wade that he had already turned the State's evidence over to the FBI. He said that the FBI had agreed to let us have it back any time we wanted it. Henry said that he thought it would be good to have the FBI do it and get it out of the hands of the State for the time being.

OFFICERS

President
Ester Cole
San Antonio
President-Elect
Joyce Cox
Houston
Vice-President
G. W. Parker Jr.
Fort Worth
Executive Director
Wm. E. Pool
Austin
General Counsel
Davis Grant
Austin



STATE BAR OF TEXAS

DIRECTORS

Rajah W. Ertle, Chairman
20th District
San Antonio
Norman C. Russell
1st District
Texasboro
John G. Tucker
2nd District
Beaumont
Lemuel C. Hutchins
3rd District
Tyler
J. E. Abornathy
4th District
McKinney
J. L. Swook
5th District
Dallas
Carl Carron
6th District
Groesbeck
Curtis W. Fenley
7th District
Lufkin
Ernest S. Fellbaum
8th District
Houston
Cleve and Davis
9th District
Angleton
C. C. Small Jr.
10th District
Austin
Emory B. Camp
11th District
Cameron
Howard G. Barker
12th District
Fort Worth
Harold Jones
13th District
Wichita Falls
R. E. Schmeider Jr.
14th District
George West
T. Gilbert Sharpe
15th District
Brownsville
H. D. Houston
16th District
Pecos
George M. Ritchie
17th District
Mineral Wells
Solon Simpson
18th District
Amenia
Paul New
19th District
Denver City
Wm. A. Griffin Jr.
21st District
San Angelo
Earle Holman
22nd District
Houston
Leon Jaworski
Immediate Past President
Houston

Office of the President
Box 344
Bonham, Texas

December 2, 1953

Mr. Houston Thompson
Attorney at Law
Box 88
Silsbee, Texas

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of November 17 addressed to me as President of the State Bar of Texas, concerning your interest in the proposed court of inquiry to be held by the Attorney General of Texas.

Of course, I am sure that you realize that the State Bar of Texas has no jurisdiction whatsoever over what actions the Attorney General of Texas may take, since he is a Constitutional officer of the State of Texas.

Please be advised that I am not unaware of the responsibilities of the organized Bar of the State of Texas at this time. I have written a letter to every past President of the Association and to the present Board of Directors and the present officers, outlined to them some of my thinking, and have sought from them their advice as to what course of action the Bar should take. It is my hope that out of the resulting confusions that we will take the proper course.

I thank you for your interest in the matter and invite you to communicate with me at any time when you feel that you have something of interest to offer.

Sincerely,

Ester Cole
ESTER COLE

ii

cc: Hon. Waggoner Carr
Attorney General
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

*for information purposes, if any?
B.C.*

December 5, 1963

The Chief Justice of the United States
The Supreme Court of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

In view of the fact that the Special Commission appointed by the President to report upon all the facts and circumstances relating to the Assassination of the late President Kennedy is meeting today, it may be helpful to you and other members of the Commission to explain the nature of the Texas Court of Inquiry to which the President's statement appointing the Commission specifically referred. While we feel a special responsibility to develop the facts, we are anxious to do everything in our power to facilitate the work of the Commission and give effect to the President's desire that it be the only body to report conclusions.

I

It may be helpful to explain first the circumstances leading to the creation of the Court of Inquiry; for they emphasize the extent to which it is the product of Federal-State cooperation. My statement announcing that a Court of Inquiry would be convened was the product of a conference with the White House, and the White House staff joined the Governor's office and my office in preparing the actual form of statement. It was felt that since the tragic events took place in Texas, prompt measures should be taken by Texas authorities to assure the people of Texas that a thorough and responsible investigation of all the facts would be made by a body having power to administer oaths and issue subpoenas. Since then we have been working in close cooperation with the White House staff, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant Attorney General Miller came to Texas for the purpose of demonstrating our cooperation. The State of Texas placed all its files and evidence in the hands of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

II

Under our Texas laws a Court of Inquiry may be called by any Justice of the Peace for the purpose of ascertaining facts which may establish the commission of a crime. The court has State-wide power to subpoena witnesses, and also full judicial power to punish contempt. Witnesses are questioned under oath and may be prosecuted for perjury in the event of false testimony. A full transcript is kept.

The original announcement gave assurance that the inquiry would be conducted in a careful and responsible fashion by stating that it would be conducted by the Attorney-General of Texas, in cooperation with the local authorities, with the aid of one or more eminent attorneys as special counsel. Leon Jaworski, Esq., immediate past president of the Texas State Bar and a former president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, has agreed to serve in that capacity. I am hopeful that Robert G. Storcy, Esq., a past president of the American Bar Association, will also agree to serve. Their participation guarantees that the proceeding will be conducted competently and with no purpose except full development of the facts.

III

Three points concerning the Court of Inquiry may be of special interest to the Commission.

1. Its activities will not involve publication of the report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While we were assured, both privately and in public statements that the identity of material witnesses, evidence, laboratory findings, etc. would be made available to the State of Texas, the F.B.I. report itself would be neither published nor introduced in evidence. The Court of Inquiry will make its own record.

2. The Court of Inquiry will make no findings, conclusions or recommendations. Its sole purpose is to develop the facts through sworn testimony adduced through the careful examination by the best qualified attorneys. I speak for all of us, too, when I say that you need have no fear of individual statements about what the evidence shows.

3. The Court of Inquiry will be concerned only with the facts concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connally, and the related killing of Lee Harvey Oswald. (On the latter score we shall have to take care not to prejudice in any way the trial of Jack Ruby; that is one reason the local district attorney will sit with us.) In order to satisfy the people of Texas we must pursue any factual leads to evidence concerning those events. There will be no witch-hunt.

IV

I am hopeful that the work of the Court of Inquiry, confined to making a record of sworn testimony, will be helpful to the Commission. That is our primary purpose, and we are anxious to close the inquiry in whatever way will be most helpful to ascertain the full facts.

The evidence will be brought out and tested by the examination of witnesses under oath by able counsel. It will all be available to the Special Commission. The Court of Inquiry can be reconvened, if the Commission requests, to pursue any new leads. Perhaps it is unlikely, but there is at least the possibility that the Court of Inquiry's power of subpoena would prove of value to the Commission in obtaining testimony from witnesses who had not been willing to speak freely to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or who might otherwise decline to testify. Finally, the very fact that there was an inquiry with witnesses heard in public, the record of which was before the Commission, might lend strength to the Commission's report, even if it were only as an answer to the charge that the Commission was dependent upon the F.B.I. investigation alone.

Finally, I must stress the great importance of the Court of Inquiry to the people of Texas. The assassination occurred in Texas. The people of Texas share with their fellow countrymen the loss of a great President. Their own Governor was badly wounded. The integrity of Texas justice is deeply involved. I am certain that the people of Texas share my feeling, which I expressed above, that the only conclusions that are drawn ought to be drawn by the Special Commission on behalf of the whole Nation, but they are also convinced that it is their local responsibility to have their State officials do everything possible to uncover all the facts.

As you know, both Mr. Jaworski and I are in Washington. If it would be of any assistance to meet with you with or without other members of the Commission as you might wish, we would be happy to suit your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Wagoner Carr
Attorney General of Texas

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.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

Special Assistant for Public Information

Texas, Austin
December 3, 1963

Honorable Waggoner Carr
Attorney General of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Carr:

Enclosed are two copies of a transcript of your press conference.

A few words to inform you of the noise, but I am sure you will find it an accurate report of the questions and answers.

It was a pleasure to see you and please call upon us any time.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Brown
Special Assistant for Public Information

Press Conference - Attorney General of Texas, Honorable Waggoner Carr
December 6, 1953

Attorney General Carr read a prepared statement.

Q. Are you leaving it open so you may still have the Court of Inquiry after the federal inquiry is completed?

A. Yes. I think we have that right, if we desire. Just now, our desire is to work in the most effective way, to bring all the facts out, whatever they may be.

Q. You were asked to hold this Court of Inquiry?

A. We have been in many conferences here. This has been discussed several times since we have been in the city. I received a letter from the Chief Justice, speaking for the Commission, which I will quote to you, in part:

"The Commission would not wish to interfere in any way with you or other state authorities in the conduct of matters which are your responsibility, and 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 special inquiry in Texas at this time might be more beneficial than helpful in our mutual search for the truth. Recognizing that the conduct of this inquiry is your responsibility and your decision, we cannot refrain from the suggestion that you consider the wisdom of postponement of your 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. And it may develop that the Commission would deem it advisable that testimony of certain witnesses residing in Texas should be taken before the Texas Court of Inquiry and, in that event, we would expect to call upon you to render this additional assistance. Let me assure you of the desire of the Commission to work most closely with you and that in the spirit of close cooperation we can responsibly meet our independent obligations."

Q. Had you already started an inquiry?

A. No. You remember the original statement that the Court of Inquiry would be held; that it would be organized in a certain way; that we would select one or more eminent lawyers in our State to serve; we are in the process of doing that; Mr. Jaworski has been selected and has agreed; he is a prominent Houston attorney, immediate past president of the Texas Bar--(went into Jaworski's background).

Q. Does this mean you will be staying here in Washington and attending the Commission's meetings--you and Jaworski?

A. We don't intend to stay and are leaving tonight. I am sure we will receive calls to come back and participate in the work of the Commission.

Q. Was your decision based on suggestion of the Chief Justice? Or were there other factors?

A. We have been discussing what ways we might best work together without competing with one another--whatever they might be. We have had numerous discussions during these three days, trying to achieve the best way possible.

Q. Have you conferred with the President?

A. No. We hope to pay our respects to him.

Q. Was asked something about the FBI report?

A. We have not asked for it.

Q. Was asked something about the report that Cowald was the one taking a shot at General Walker?

A. We have pending in the State of Texas the well-known trial of Jack Ruby. For that reason, it is not right for me to make a statement regarding the facts.

Q. No connection between them?

A. We don't know. Another reason--these facts will be presented to the Commission and in the spirit of cooperation, I can't.

Q. You are convinced that the investigative authority of the federal government is being used to the fullest; you announced Court of Inquiry two weeks ago--were you more convinced at that time that FBI or (couldn't hear or understand this question.)

A. No. At that time, you will recall, we were in contact at all times with the staff of the White House. We wanted to be helpful. This has been a cooperative effort from the beginning. Texas feels it has a responsibility in making all the facts known.

Q. Had you discussed this Court of Inquiry plan with the Justice Department before you announced it?

A. No.

Q. Or with the President?

A. With the White House staff.

Q. Who in particular?

A. I don't want -- no one has asked us not to hold a Court of Inquiry. We have ~~xxxx~~ worked out a system to postpone it.

Q. Anyone at the White House suggest you postpone it.

A. No.

Q. You will cooperate with the Commission whenever they call you?

A. Yes. It is an invitation we have accepted.

Q. When will they meet?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you feel or the Attorney General in Texas feel the Court of Inquiry might turn up evidence that the FBI would not be able to find?

A. No. That's not the purpose of it at all. We know all this happened in the Senate. It has been a cooperative matter from the beginning. I keep insisting, in answer to your question, there is nothing like that in it at all--supplementing each other.

Q. Had you announced any hearings yet?

A. No. Our purpose was not to do that until the proper time; our files in the hands of the FBI, and we have been from the beginning cooperating with them.

Q. Had you decided where the hearings would be held?

A. No. Two cities under discussion. There are legal points involved as to subpoena power. Under discussion whether in Dallas or Austin.

Q. Do you think the Court of Inquiry will be held eventually?

A. If it can serve a useful purpose, at a later date, in establishing what the facts are, why, of course, this would be the purpose of it. Would not call it unless it has a useful purpose. We don't feel it would have useful purpose at this time--just now.

Q. You would not go on and have the Court of Inquiry help duplicate facts here?

A. Not unless we thought it would have usefulness--such as public examination of witnesses under oath and cross-examination.

Q. Have you worked out the nature of your cooperation with the Commission? Have they asked you to be on hand? Will you sit as a member of the Commission?

A. We are not a member of the Commission itself. That's obvious. The Chief Justice, speaking for the Commission has been gracious enough to invite us to participate in the working and attend its hearings.

Q. You don't know if the Commission will actually have public hearings.

A. I don't know if that has been particularly decided.

Q. Did you meet with the Commission today?

A. No, I did not.

Q. You only met with Chief Justice Warren?

A. He was speaking for the Commission.

Q. When did you meet with him?

A. Today.

Q. You didn't meet with him in the previous days?
Was the letter you are reading from written after the meeting.

A. I don't know when he was written -- before or after.

Q. When did you meet with the Chief Justice?

A. At five o'clock.

Q. You got the letter after the meeting with the Chief Justice?

A. I got it at the time of the meeting.

Q. Did you set up the House Court of Inquiry, or did Governor Connally do that?

A. You mean this part of the bill? As you know Governor Connally was in the hospital. . . we never got it actually organized and ready to go, we are still in the process. . . the magistrate has the authority to call it, but of course we could request it orally or in writing.

STATEMENT BY WAGGONER CAIR, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

For the past three days Mr. Paworski and I have been in Washington conferring with Mr. Katzenbach, Deputy Attorney General, and with Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, concerning the investigation of the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connolly, and subsequent events.

We are convinced that the investigative authority of the federal government is being used to the fullest extent. The files and the evidence which have been accumulated by Texas Local and State authorities are in the hands of the FBI for its use. The investigation is being conducted vigorously, reaching across the boundaries of many States and several nations to date. Consistent with the purpose of our State to cooperate closely in this investigation, it is our considered judgment that the Texas Court of Inquiry, if held at this time or in the immediate future, might bring about an interruption in the continuity of the Nation-wide investigation.

For these reasons, it is my conclusion and decision that the convening of a Court of Inquiry at the present time should be withheld. In the meantime, the Presidential Special Commission has asked the Attorney General of Texas and the Special Counsel selected for the Texas Court of Inquiry to work with the Commission, attend its hearings and assist with the Commission's important tasks. I have accepted this invitation and we shall make all resources which we have in the State of Texas available to support the task of this Commission.

ROBERT GERALD STOREY
REPUBLIC BANK BUILDING
DALLAS, TEXAS

December 9, 1963

Personal

Dear General:

This confirms our telephone conversations to the effect that I shall be glad to join you and Leon Jaworski as a Special Counsel for the State of Texas in connection with the investigation of facts concerning the President's assassination and subsequent events, in cooperation with the President's Commission, as outlined in our conversations.

You may address correspondence and phone calls to my law office at the above address. I usually divide my time between the law office and the Legal Center, but mail is delivered more promptly to the law office. My telephone number at the law office is RT 2-6844; and the Legal Center, EM 3-2206 or EM 3-1023.

As suggested by you, I am enclosing two biographical sketches.

Looking forward to working with you and with highest esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Waggoner Carr
The Attorney General
Supreme Court Building
Austin, Texas

RGS/kk

Enclosures

ROBERT CERALD STOREY

Dallas, Texas.

Family and Personal:

Wife, Hazel P. Storey, (deceased, 1962); two sons, Robert G. Storey, Jr., (deceased, 1962) and Charles P. Storey, Attorneys.

Education:

University of Texas and Southern Methodist University, B. A.; LL. D., Texas Christian University, 1947; Laval University, 1953; Drake University, 1954; Doctor of Humanities, Rikko University, Japan, 1961; Doctor of Civil Laws, Chungang University, Korea, 1961.

Professional:

Partner, Storey, Armstrong & Steger, Dallas, Texas; President, Southwestern Legal Foundation, 1947; Dean, Southern Methodist University Law School, 1947-59.

Public Service

Assistant Attorney General of Texas for Criminal Appeals, 1921-1923.
Member, National Executive Committee, American Legion, 1921-1922.
Governor, Kiwanis Club, Texas-Oklahoma District, 1931;
President of Park Board, City of Dallas, 1938-1941;
Executive Trial Counsel for United States, Nuremberg, Trial of Major Axis War Criminals, 1945-1946;
Member, Commission to Reorganize Executive Branch of United States Government (Hoover Commission), 1953-1955;
Advisor to Korean Government on judicial system and legal profession, 1954; Korean Legal Center, 1959;
State Department representative in Far East and Middle East to assist legal profession of friendly free nations, 1954-1955;
Chairman, Board of Foreign Scholarships (International Educational Exchange), 1958-1962;
Vice Chairman, United States Civil Rights Commission, 1957-
Chairman, Citizens Advisory Committee, Texas Constitutional Revision, 1956-1960.

Bar Association Activities:

President, Dallas Bar Association, 1934;
President, State Bar of Texas, 1948-1949;
President, American Bar Association, 1952-1953;
President, Inter-American Bar Association, 1954-1956;
Member of Council, International Bar Association, 1952-1959;
Honorary member of Canadian, Peruvian, Mexican, Korean, Australian and various State Bar Associations.

Ch. of Inquiry

December 16, 1933

Honorable Eyster Cole
President
State Bar of Texas
Box 344
Bonham, Texas

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate so very much your nice letter of December 6th concerning the decision we made on the Texas Court of Inquiry. I appreciate also the confidence you had in me and the way in which you handled the letters written to you expressing concern.

I am taking the liberty of mailing herewith a copy of a speech I made recently in Houston which sets out the complete history of the Court of Inquiry.

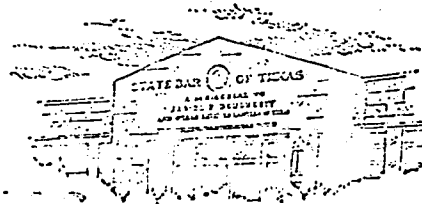
I will be most grateful to you if you would continue to let me have the benefit of your thinking and your advice in the days ahead. I can't do it the way you keep your two feet on the ground in everything you do.

Yours very truly,

Wagoner Carr

WC:crr
Enclosure

OFFICERS
 President
 Lester Cole
 Dallas
 President-Elect
 Joyce Cox
 Houston
 Vice-President
 G. W. Parker Jr.
 Fort Worth
 Executive Director
 Wm. E. Pool
 Austin
 General Counsel
 Davis Grant
 Austin



STATE BAR OF TEXAS

DIRECTORS

- Ed. W. Ellis, Chairman
20th District
San Antonio
- Norman C. Russell
1st District
Terrell
- John G. Tucker
2nd District
Beaumont
- Lemuel C. Hutchins
3rd District
Tyler
- J. E. Abernathy
4th District
McKinney
- J. L. Sheak
5th District
Dallas
- Carl Cannon
6th District
Groesbeck
- Curtis W. Fenley
7th District
Lufkin
- Ernest S. Feilbaum
8th District
Houston
- Cleveland Davis
9th District
Angleton
- C. C. Small Jr.
10th District
Austin
- Emory S. Camp
11th District
Cameron
- Howard G. Barker
12th District
Fort Worth
- Harold Jones
13th District
Wichita Falls
- R. E. Schneider Jr.
14th District
George West
- T. Gilbert Sharpe
15th District
Brownsville
- W. D. Hudson
16th District
Pecos
- George M. Ritchie
17th District
Mineral Wells
- Selden Simpson
18th District
Amarillo
- Paul New
19th District
Denver City
- Wm. A. Griffin Jr.
21st District
San Angelo
- Eric Holman
22nd District
Houston
- Leon Jaworski
Immediate Past President
Houston

Office of the President
 Box 344
 Sanham, Texas

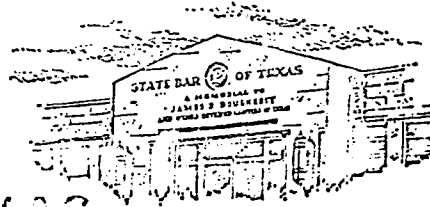
Dec. 9th

Dear Waggoner,
 Until you had made your own decision about whether or not you would lend the credit of signing concerning the President's death, I declined to express any opinion to you although there was pressure for me to do so. I considered that a decision for you alone.

Now that you have made your decision, I wish

OFFICERS

President
Ester Cole
Bonham
President-Elect
Joyce Cox
Houston
Vice-President
G. W. Parker Jr.
Fort Worth
Executive Director
Wm. E. Pool
Austin
General Counsel
Davis Grant
Austin



STATE BAR OF TEXAS

DIRECTORS

Ralph W. Brito, Chairman
20th District
San Antonio
Norman C. Russell
1st District
Tascadero
John G. Tucker
2nd District
Beaumont
Lemuel C. Hutchins
3rd District
Tyler
J. E. Abernathy
4th District
McKinney
J. L. Shook
5th District
Dallas
Carl Cannon
6th District
Groesbeck
Curtis W. Fanley
7th District
Lufkin
Ernest S. Fallbaum
8th District
Houston
Cleveland Davis
9th District
Angleton
C. C. Small Jr.
10th District
Austin
Emory E. Camp
11th District
Cameron
Howard G. Barker
12th District
Fort Worth
Harold Jones
13th District
Wichita Falls
R. E. Schneider Jr.
14th District
George West
T. Gilbert Sharpe
15th District
Brownsville
Hill D. Hudson
16th District
Pecos
George M. Ritchie
17th District
Mineral Wells
Selden Simpson
18th District
Amarillo
Paul New
19th District
Denver City
Wm. A. Griffe Jr.
21st District
San Angelo
Berke Holmes
22nd District
Houston
Leon Jaworski
Immediate Past President
Houston

Office of the President

Box 344
Bonham, Texas

*to say that I approve of
the way you handled the
matter and I believe you
gathered much support from
the public in what you
did.*

*You are doing a fine
job for Texas as Attorney
General and I wish you
to know that I will lend
what efforts and aid I
can to support you further
in that task.*

*Sincerely,
Ester Cole*

REMARKS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
WALDO PER CHASE
BEFORE THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOUSTON
December 12, 1963

I want you to know how happy I am to be once again in your wonderful city of Houston, and I am especially delighted to be appearing before such a distinguished group as the Houston Rotary Club.

Although I am no stranger to this luck of mine, it has been three weeks ... three hectic weeks, I might add, ... since I gave a similar address, and it is hard to be returning to some semblance of normal living.

As a result of the tragic events of November 22nd through November 24th, it goes without saying that all of our lives have been changed to some degree. Since that time literally millions of words have been written of those fateful three days ... some of them true ... some of them misleading ... some of them false. And since the Attorney General's office was involved in one particular area of those proceedings, I thought you might be interested in hearing today the complete story of the Texas Court of Inquiry ... from its inception ... until now.

The story really began in Washington, D. C., where I, along with Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith and House Speaker Byron Tunnell, had traveled to serve as official representatives of the State of Texas to the funeral of President Kennedy.

After a conference with the White House, it was decided that a Court of Inquiry should be held in Texas for the purpose of fully developing and discussing publicly the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connally, the murder of Dallas police officer, J. D. Tippit, and subsequent events. There were three primary reasons why such proceedings were felt to be desirable, and, indeed, necessary.

First, the President was going to call for a complete and thorough report from the FBI, and it was feared that this action might be misinterpreted by the rest of the United States and the world to mean that the integrity of justice and law and order in Texas had broken down to such an extent that nothing less than Federal agents could bring order out of chaos.

The federal government also wanted to avoid giving the impression that it was taking over the responsibility of Texas in the enforcement of state laws.

Secondly, the eastern and northern press, and even the international press, were, at that time, beginning to insinuate and openly state that there was "a deep, dark, and mysterious conspiracy to prevent the truth from becoming known ..." and that this conspiracy was being aided and abetted by the authorities of Texas. It was being said that the lips of the man accused of the President's assassination had been forever sealed by those who feared the story which he might tell. And they went on to hint darkly that the killing of Oswald had been allowed by the Dallas police ... either ingeniously ... or stupidly.

With such insinuations being made as to the veracity of Texas authorities, it was felt that Texas must quickly demonstrate its own initiative and desire to determine the facts ... no matter what they might reveal ... in plain view of the world through a public hearing.

And thirdly, the development and disclosure of the facts should sometime, in the course of the entire investigation, be done by a judicial hearing where witnesses could be examined under oath and where unwilling witnesses might be forcibly subpoenaed. The Federal Government had no structure whereby this could be accomplished. The State of Texas, however, does have such a statute which authorizes the calling of a Court of Inquiry for the purpose of determining whether a crime has been committed. Such a court has subpoena powers, authority to enforce the attendance of witnesses should the subpoena be disobeyed, and authority to place each witness under oath to tell the truth ... such oath to be enforced by a felony indictment for perjury should the witness lie. The examination would be conducted by the Attorney General of Texas or the local District Attorney.

We also planned to select one or more outstanding lawyers of Texas, not connected with the government, as special counsel. These eminent attorneys would work closely with the Attorney General and the local District Attorney in the preparation and conduct of the Court of Inquiry.

I agreed that Texas had an unusual duty upon us to determine the facts and to make them public. It was only in this manner that the world of the present and future could know the difference between fact and rumor. In accordance with this decision, I announced in Washington that I would call a Court of Inquiry upon my return to Texas.

Within the next 24 hours, the United States Department of Justice sent its chief-ranking attorneys, Wesley C. Smith, Jr., and Ross Miller, head of the criminal division, to Austin. This visit was felt to be desirable for two reasons.

First, to make initial decisions as to how the federal and state governments could most effectively work together toward their common objective of determining truth, and secondly, to vividly demonstrate to the people of Texas that the federal government recognized the responsibility of Texas in the determination of facts arising out of these tragic events. Mr. Miller was accompanied to Austin by the U. S. District Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Mr. Laurence Sanders G. Bailey. During a two hour conference, we were able to establish a very fine basis of cooperation.

Immediately following this meeting, a press conference was held, with all three of us present, where statements were mutually made expressing the desire of both governments to cooperate in this objective. It was announced that this would be a three-pronged affair.

(1) The FBI would make its full report to the President, and Texas would cooperate in this first step by turning all files and evidence over to the FBI so that agency might have the benefit of our information in making its report to the President. This we promptly did.

(2) The second phase of the investigation would be the Texas Court of Inquiry which was to be called as soon as the state could prepare its evidence following the report of the FBI to the President. In this phase, the federal government, including, of course, the FBI, would cooperate with Texas authorities by making all federal evidence and witnesses available for the Court of Inquiry. This included even witnesses outside the State of Texas and thus beyond the reach of a Texas subpoena.

(3) The third phase would be undertaken by the Presidential Commission. This Commission would possess all of the facts developed by the federal agencies as well as the testimony from the Texas Court of Inquiry, and from these facts, would draw conclusions and report its findings.

Immediately thereafter, the top staff of my office began to brief legal questions which confronted us in the selection of a city where the Court might be held, as well as many other questions which you would expect to arise in such an endeavor.

From the very outset, we remained in close contact with the White House staff, the Governor's office, and the office of the Dallas District Attorney, Mr. Henry Wade.

One of the most pressing and important decisions which I had to make was the selection of one or more eminent Texas lawyers who would serve as special counsel. It was necessary that these men have, not only the highest possible prestige and respect of the people of Texas, but also the people of this nation.

It was vitally necessary that the character of this investigation remain non-political and unbiased, and we knew that our success in this area would depend to a very high degree on the reputation and ability of the special counsel. Therefore, my decision here required Texas, national, and indeed, worldly consideration.

As you know, I selected as one of these men your fellow Houstonian, Mr. Leon Jaworski, whose background included such accomplishments as immediate Past President of the Texas Bar Association, Past President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, prosecutor of war criminals following World War II, and whose reputation for ability and integrity in the practice of law was beyond reproach from coast to coast.

Let it be said to the everlasting credit of Mr. Jaworski that when I requested this assistance, he immediately accepted, knowing that this service could be given to his state and nation only at considerable personal expense and loss of time in his private practice of law.

Upon Mr. Jaworski's acceptance, the appointment was announced to the public.

A few days later, President Johnson announced the creation of the Presidential Special Commission. In his announcement, the President stated that this Commission should take into consideration all of the facts developed by all investigative agencies, as well as testimony from the Texas Court of Inquiry.

Last week, Mr. Jaworski and I were requested by the Department of Justice to come to Washington for the purpose of discussing ways in which we could continue to most effectively cooperate. During our stay in the nation's capital, the Presidential Commission held two meetings for the purpose of perfecting its organization and hiring of its staff. As you know, this Commission is made up of seven members appointed by the President. Its Chairman is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl Warren. Other members are Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat from Georgia; Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican from Kentucky; Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat from Louisiana; Representative

Gerald Ford, Michigan Republican; Allen Dulles, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and John J. McCloy, former special advisor on disarmament to President Kennedy. All of them are lawyers.

Chief Justice Warren visited personally with Mr. Jaworski and me in behalf of the Commission. At that time he made the following request, and he repeated this request in a letter which he sent to me in Austin. I quote in part from that letter:

"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.

-11-

"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 or 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 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 conclusion based upon partial factual information. In addition, 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 upon 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."

As a result of these conferences, Mr. Jaworski and I had become convinced that the investigative authority of the federal government was being used to the fullest extent. The Commission would be granted subpoena powers, and the investigation, which had already reached across many states and several nations, was being conducted vigorously. Therefore, pursuant to the Commission's request, it was our considered judgment that the Texas Court of Inquiry, if held at this time or in the immediate future, might bring about an interruption in the continuity of the nation-wide investigation.

For these reasons, it was my conclusion and decision that the convening of the Texas Court of Inquiry should, for the present time, be withheld. At the same time that I announced this decision, I also accepted the invitation of the Special Commission in which they asked Mr. Jaworski and me to attend their hearings and assist with the Commission's important task.

It is clearly understood by all concerned that if, after we have assisted the Commission in this work, we feel the necessity of additional investigation to disclose further facts, we will then have no hesitancy in calling for the Texas Court of Inquiry.

Only one thing is uppermost in our minds. Every possible fact concerning these tragic events must be sought out and established. Then, and only then, will the public confirm that justice has been accomplished.

I have enjoyed being with you today, and I wish all of you much happiness in the coming holiday season.

December 13, 1953

Honorable Earl Warren
Chairman
The President's Commission
The National Archives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chief Justice Warren:

I gratefully acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 6, 1953, following the visit Mr. Leon Jaworski and I had with you.

Although I have previously accepted formally your invitation extended in behalf of the Commission to participate in the work, I want again to accept such responsibility in behalf of Texas. Because of such participation in the work of the Commission, Texas will postpone its Court of Inquiry pending a decision that it would serve a useful purpose in addition to the Commission's investigation.

I appreciate that the Commission is aware of the deep interest of Texas in a full determination of all the facts surrounding the tragic events which occurred within its borders. I cannot over-emphasize the eagerness of the people of Texas to assume their responsibility in this regard in the most effective way. We have postponed our state inquiry on the basis of your invitation to participate in the Commission work. We now stand ready.

I have appointed Mr. Leon Jaworski of Houston and Dean Robert C. Storey of Dallas to serve with me in our mutual search for the truth. Dean Storey was appointed subsequent to the visit Mr. Jaworski and I had with you. I know you are acquainted with Dean Storey but I am enclosing some information on his many accomplishments.

Honorable Earl Warren
December 16, 1968

Page 2

It is our sincere desire to work most closely with the Commission so that, as you state in your letter, "we can responsibly meet our independent obligations."

Yours very truly,

W. J. Moore

WJ:cr
Tad:mg

cc: Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Honorable R. G. Storey
Attorney at Law
Republic National Bank Building
Dallas, Texas

Honorable Leon Jaworski
Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman,
Bates and Jaworski
Attorneys at Law
Bank of the Southwest Building
Houston, Texas

STOREY, ARMSTRONG & STEGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2707 FLOOR REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS
RIVERS DE 2 6844

R. G. STOREY
E. T. ARMSTRONG
ROBERT L. STEGER
ROBERT G. STOREY, JR. (92-1962)
CHARLES W. STOREY
ROBERT W. MARTIN, JR.
JOHN A. DELAY, JR.
PAUL S. ADAMS, JR.
ALLAN L. BECARD
DONALD A. SWANSON, JR.
DONALD W. JACKSON

OF COUNSEL
C. BRIGHAM BUDD

December 19, 1963

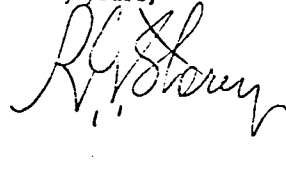
Honorable Waggoner Carr
The Attorney General
Supreme Court Building
Austin, Texas

Dear General:

Confirming our various telephone conversations, all those to whom this letter and copies are addressed have agreed to meet in our Law Library, 2700 Republic National Bank Building, next Tuesday, December 24, at 10:00 A. M.

On behalf of Attorney General Carr, Mr. Jaworski and me as special counsel, I do trust that all can be present.

Sincerely yours,

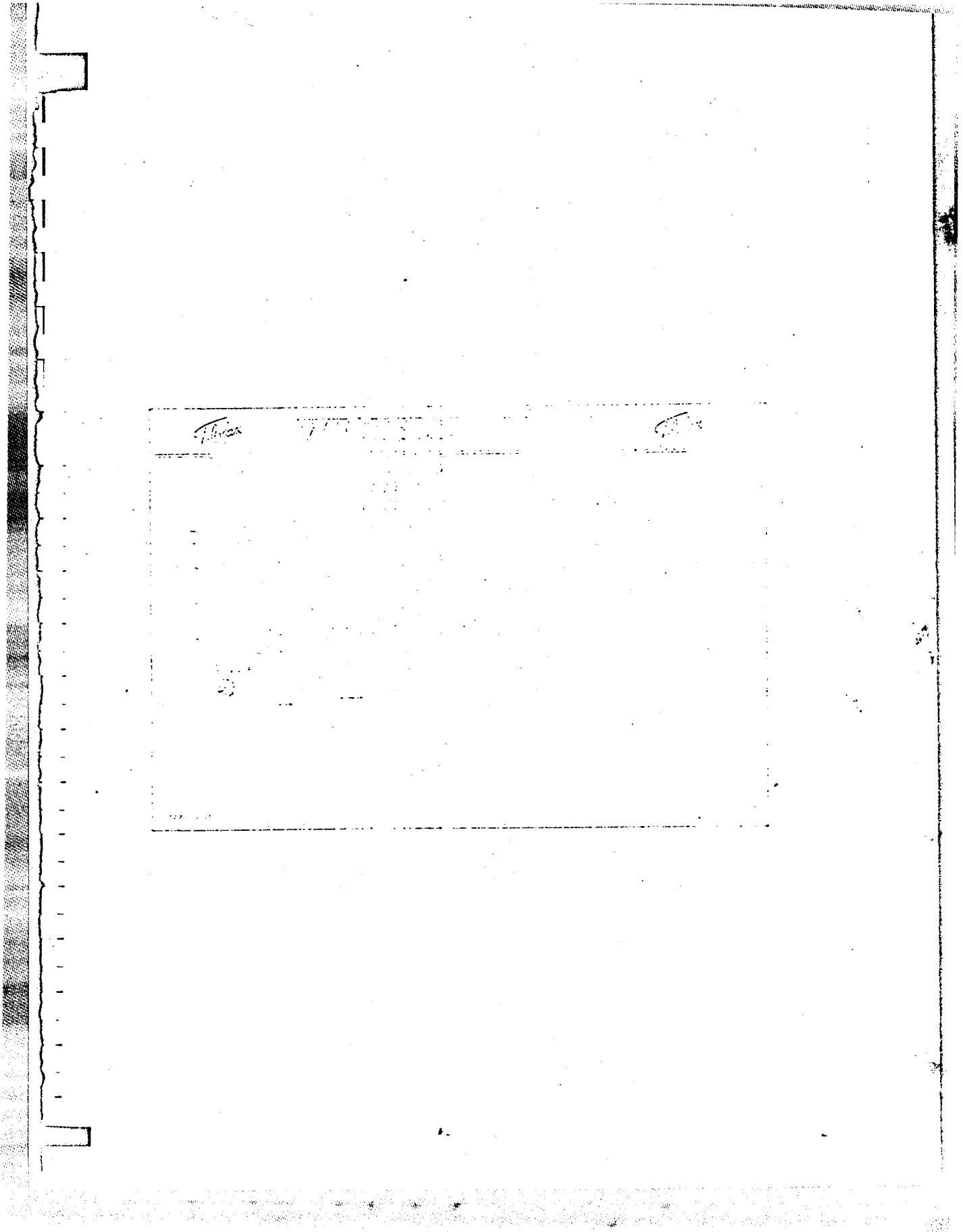


RGS:al

cc: Mayor Earle Cabell
City Manager Elgin Crull
Sheriff Bill Decker
Chief Jesse E. Curry
Mr. Leon Jaworski
Mr. Henry Wade
Mr. Barefoot Sanders

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE



Alves

1770

Alves

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D. C.

December 19, 1963

Honorable Waggoner Carr
Attorney General
The State Capitol
Austin, Texas

Dear General Carr:

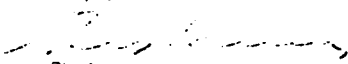
I wish to again express my appreciation for the fine conference that we had with you and your Special Assistants, Leon Jaworski and Robert Storey in the offices of the Commission on Tuesday of this week. The discussions of our mutual problems were most helpful and I wish to accept your generous offer of having Mr. Jaworski and Mr. Storey act as liaisons with the Commission on your behalf.

As I advised you at that time the Commission would like to have an arrangement with your office whereby you can assemble and furnish to us all the information in the possession of the various agencies and governmental subdivisions within the State of Texas bearing upon this problem. This would greatly simplify our procedures and enable us to make the most effective use of the findings of all the Texas agencies. Such agencies and subdivisions are the following:

1. Office of the Attorney General
2. Public Safety Department
3. Office of the District Attorney at Dallas
4. County Sheriff and other county officers at Dallas
5. City Police and other city officers at Dallas
6. All other public sources.

Again let me assure you of the desire of the Commission to work with you in a spirit of close cooperation and in mutual endeavor to obtain all of the ultimate facts in this matter.

Sincerely,


Chairman

December 30, 1963

Honorable Lee Rankin
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
200 Maryland Avenue N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation I will appreciate your making known to the Commission the following information with the hope that the Commission may wish to help the District Attorney of Dallas County, Mr. Wade.

1. In preparing the State's case against John Ruby the District Attorney is presently hampered by the fact that all records, including written statements are in the possession of the FBI. Would you please see what can be done to get these statements, etc., in the hands of the District Attorney? The case is presently set for trial in early February.
2. Mr. Wade is concerned about reported statements made in the press to the effect that there is no connection between Oswald and Ruby. His point is that such press reports should say that no connection has thus far been established. He is aware that such press statements are not based on any statements or activities of yours, Chief Justice Warren's, or anyone connected with the Commission.

Again let me assure you that Texas stands ready to be of all possible assistance to you and the Commission in its search for the truth.

Honorable Lee Rankin
December 30, 1963

Page 2

Hope to have in your hands in the next few days a complete report on all of the facts developed through the efforts of our investigative and enforcement agencies.

Yours very truly,

Waggoner Carr

WC:cr
cc: Honorable Henry Wade
Criminal District Attorney
Dallas, Texas

December 29, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

In carrying out the plan decided on by the conference of Washington on December 18th, I have the following report.

On Monday, December 27, Mr. [Name] of the [Name] and I went very worthwhile and productive meeting with [Name] and [Name] and leaders.

Major Mark [Name]
Ch. [Name] [Name]
Major Chief Justice E. Curry
District Attorney Henry [Name]
C. A. District Attorney [Name]

[Name] Bill [Name] was chosen as to the [Name] of the [Name] of the meeting. However, [Name] [Name].

The detailed report was [Name] concerning the [Name] of the [Name] and Federal Government [Name] and the [Name] of the [Name] [Name] to [Name] the [Name] authorities was [Name] [Name] to cooperation with our [Name] objectives was [Name] [Name] [Name] [Name] leaders. [Name] and your [Name] to [Name] with them at any time and they were most appreciative.

[Name] were made to place in the files of the Commission as soon as possible the results of all state and local investigations [Name] of whether such records have previously been given to the FBI or Secret Service. It was, of course, agreed that the effort of all [Name] authorities would be channelled through the [Name] Attorney General's office.

February 20, 1943

Page 2

These investigative reports will be made available to you regarding the attempted murder of Governor Clegg.

You will recall your suggestion that certain statements be secured from Governor and Mrs. Clegg. The Chief Clerkly advises that such contacts would have to be made in the future. However, if after the Commission has had a chance to look at additional statements are needed, he and Mrs. Clegg will endeavor to give them.

Mr. Chief of Police, District Attorney, and other agencies will be kept advised of the progress of the Commission and will be kept advised of any developments.

1. In preparing the future case against the District Attorney, the Chief Clerkly will be the fact that the statements are in the possession of the FBI. Would you please advise what can be done to get these statements, etc., in the hands of the District Attorney? The case is presently set for trial in early February.
2. Mr. Chief of Police let about repeated statements made in the press to the effect that there is no connection between Oswald and Ruby. The point is that such news reports should be given no credence and thus far have been untruthful. No to change this and press other news are not based on any statements or activities of Oswald, Mrs. Oswald's, or anyone connected with the Government.

In summary, the Commission would have no part of anything in to make a full and complete investigation with the local authorities of Dallas in the discovery and development of all the facts surrounding the tragic events. We are presently moving as rapidly as possible to get the results of our investigation directly to the Commission. Every effort is being made to completely run down any new leads as they appear.

Honorable Earl Warren
December 30, 1963

Page 3

All of us stand ready to assist the Commission in every possible way so the Commission's report will be thorough and stand the test of future public examination.

Yours very truly,

Walter G. Carter

WG:car

cc: Honorable Lee Harvey
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building
200 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D. C.

bcc: Honorable Leon Jaworski
Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman,
Bates and Jaworski
Attorneys at Law
Bank of the Southwest Building
Houston, Texas

bcc: Honorable R. G. Storey
2700 Republic National Bank Building
Dallas, Texas

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

JAN 13 1964

Honorable Waggoner Carr
Attorney General of Texas
Supreme Court Building
Austin 11, Texas

Dear General:

It would be helpful to the work of this Commission if you would obtain from the Cities of Fort Worth and Dallas, for the Commission's review, copies of any documents or files in the files regarding the Harvey Oswald. We are particularly interested in obtaining Oswald's educational files. In this connection, we are informed that Oswald attended the following Texas schools: Right's Elementary School, Fort Worth, 1947 to 1952; Stage West Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights High School, Fort Worth, September 1, 1956 to September 16, 1956; and Greater Tech High School, Dallas, January 14, 1956 to April 14, 1956.

In addition, the Commission would like to review any related psychiatric reports, any records maintained by the Fort Worth or Dallas Police Departments and any other information in any State or local agency's possession which would assist the Commission in learning as much as possible about the background of Oswald.

The Commission of course realizes the confidential character of much, if not all, of this information and wishes to assure you that it and the members of its staff will be accordingly governed in its use.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

EARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHIRMAN COOPER
MALE BOGGS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

JAN 17 1964

Mr. Waggoner Carr
Attorney General of Texas
Supreme Court Building
Austin 11, Texas

Dear General:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 1964.
All the materials listed in the letters attached to your
communication have been received by the Commission and will
be of great assistance in our work.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

January 17, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
250 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear General:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of
January 13, 1964, in which you asked for copies
of any documents in the files of Fort Worth and
Dallas relating to Lee Harvey Oswald. I have
this day forwarded these requests to those offices
and will be in touch with you immediately as soon
as I can get this rounded up.

Yours very truly,

Wagner Carr

WC:cr

January 17, 1964

Chief Cato Hightower
Chief of Police
City Hall
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Chief:

I have received a request from Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, who makes a request in behalf of the Commission for information from Texas as follows:

"It would be helpful to the work of this Commission if you would obtain from the Cities of Fort Worth and Dallas, for the Commission's review, copies of any documents it has in its files relating to Lee Harvey Oswald. We are particularly interested in obtaining Oswald's educational files. In this connection, we are informed that Oswald attended the following Texas schools: Ridge West Elementary School, Fort Worth, 1947 to 1952; Ridge West Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights High School, Fort Worth, September 5, 1956 to September 23, 1956; and Greater Tuen High School, Dallas, January 14, 1953 to April 3, 1953.

In addition, the Commission would like to review any related psychiatric reports, any records maintained by the Fort Worth or Dallas Police Departments and any other information in any State or local agency's possession which would assist the Commission in learning as much as possible about the background of Oswald.

The Commission of course realizes the confidential character of much, if not all, of this information and hastens to assure you that it and the members of its staff will be accordingly governed in its use.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter."

Chief Cato Nightower
January 17, 1964

Page 2

I will appreciate your securing all possible information concerning this matter and forwarding it to me as soon as possible. I will then, of course, see that it gets in the hands of the Commission. Your early attention to this will be most helpful in assisting the Commission in its efforts to arrive at the truth.

Let me know if I can be of assistance to you and thank you for your splendid cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Waggoner Carr

WC:cr

January 17, 1964

Chief Jesse D. Curry
Chief of Police
City Hall
Dallas, Texas

Dear Chief:

I have received a request from Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, who makes a request in behalf of the Commission for information from Texas as follows:

"It would be helpful to the work of this Commission if you would obtain from the Chief of State Work at Fort Worth, for the Commission's review, copies of any documents it has in its files relating to Lee Harvey Oswald. We are particularly interested in obtaining Oswald's school and files. In this connection, we are informed that Oswald attended the following Texas schools: 1st Elementary School, Fort Worth, 1941 to 1942; Ridge Wood Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights Elementary School, Fort Worth; Arlington Heights Elementary School, Fort Worth, September 6, 1956 to September 12, 1957; and Science Tech High School, Dallas, January 14, 1958 to April 3, 1959.

In addition, the Commission would like to review any related psychiatric reports, any records maintained by the Fort Worth or Dallas Police Departments and any other information in any state or local agency possession which would assist the Commission in learning as much as possible about the background of Oswald.

The Commission of course realizes the confidential character of much, if not all, of this information and insists to assure you that it and the members of its staff will be accordingly governed in its use.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter."

Chief Jesse E. Curry
January 17, 1964

Page 2

I will appreciate your securing all possible information concerning this matter and forwarding it to me as soon as possible. I will then, of course, see that it gets in the hands of the Commission. Your early attention to this will be most helpful in assisting the Commission in its efforts to arrive at the truth.

Let me know if I can be of assistance to you and thank you for your splendid cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Waggoner Carr

WC:cr

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

Platz

WESTERN UNION
SENDING BLANK

Platz

CALL LETTERS	220	CHARGE TO	_____
Honorable J. Lee Rankin			
200 Maryland Avenue NE			
Washington, D. C.			
1-23-54			
Care party will leave Office Tennis at 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM.			
EST arrive National Airport, Washington 1:00 P.M. 2/1/54.			
Regards.			
John S. Smith			
Tennis Attorney			
General's Office			

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD

1247-A-4-511

July 17, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear General Rankin:

Without these suggestions and suggestions of other officers to be of aid in formulating the final report on the subject of the discussion of last Friday, at which time I mentioned to you, my special counsel, Mr. Toney and Mr. P. A. Assistant, Mr. McManis, was present, I respectfully suggest that the Commission should be taking the following steps:

- (1) From the names of both agencies involved, there should be obtained the names of every agent and representative in service in the field area between the moment of August and December. This information must be complete as to every single representative who worked for both agencies in that area, whether for only a few days or for several months, is to be included.
- (2) Each of the men on these two lists should be examined under oath to determine if either he has any knowledge of the subject matter under discussion.
- (3) The Director--who handles the names of each agency--as well as the District Director of each agency (both the districts in which the lists) each should similarly be examined to

Honorable J. Leo ...
January 29, 1964

Page 2

ascertain whether or not ...
ledge of the matter and is highly.

If there is any reference to the ...
is possible that knowledge of ...
two individuals and this ...
every single person who ...
involved be available for the ...

Please be assured that I am available to you, or any ...
council, for such assistance as we can ...
phase of the investigation.

Yours very truly,

W. J. ...

WJ:scv
cc: Honorable Leon Jaworski
cc: Honorable Robert G. Storey

February 9, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:

On my last trip to Washington I was advised by General Rankin that you were apprehensive of the results of the work made in Texas on the subject of the non-attendance inquiry. I am enclosing a copy of the report for you to read at your convenience.

When you suggested, on behalf of the Commission, that I prepare the Texas Court of Inquiry on the subject of the work of the Commission I agreed to do so with the understanding that should I, as the special counsel, find that a useful purpose would be served by the constitution of a Texas Court of Inquiry, we would do so. It, however, became desirable, and indeed necessary, to explain to the people of Texas why I refused to shift our present efforts from Austin to Washington.

Since the role and only objective is a full, complete and thorough investigation and the disclosure of all the facts, whatever they may be, the purpose of the Texas Court of Inquiry representative for assurance and confidence. I cannot give such assurance unless I know the facts. I know the Commission's work is being carried out in Washington to decide whether a Texas Court of Inquiry would serve a useful purpose in the full development of facts.

You will note that my present public statements have my confidence in the work and plans of the Commission. I want to compliment you on the way in which the investigation is being conducted. General Rankin has our full confidence. I

Honorable Earl Warren
February 3, 1964

Page 2

I have no present reason to believe the final result will be other than one which will stand the test of the ages.

My only interest is to fully and satisfactorily perform the duties of my state office, part of which duties is to be able to tell my people that a thorough investigation has been made--one that is fair and equitable to all.

I am prepared to spend whatever time and effort is necessary to participate in the work of the Commission, to the end that the people of this nation and of Texas may be assured of complete confidence in my important task.

Yours very truly,

Wiggamor Clark

WG:cr
Enclosure
cc: Honorable J. Lee Rankin

REMARKS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
WAGGONER CARR
BEFORE THE ROTARY CLUB OF TYLER
January 23, 1964

As a result of the tragic events of November 22nd through November 24th, it goes without saying that all of our lives have been changed to some degree. Since that time literally millions of words have been written of those fateful three days ... some of them true ... some of them misleading ... some of them false. And since the Attorney General's office was involved in one particular area of those proceedings, I thought you might be interested in hearing today the complete story of the Texas Court of Inquiry ... from its inception... till now.

The story really began in Washington, D. C., where I, along with Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith and House Speaker Byron Tunnell, had traveled to serve as official representatives of the State of Texas to the funeral of President Kennedy.

After a conference with the White House, it was decided that a Court of Inquiry should be held in Texas for the purpose of fully developing and disclosing publicly the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, the attempted assassination of Governor Connally, the murder of Dallas police officer, J. D. Tippit, and subsequent events. There were three primary reasons why such proceedings were felt to be desirable, and, indeed, necessary.

First, the President was going to call for a complete and thorough report from the FBI, and it was feared that this action might be misinterpreted by the rest of the United States and the world to mean that the integrity of justice and law and order in Texas had broken down to such an extent that nothing less than federal agents could bring order out of chaos.

The federal government also wanted to avoid giving the impression that it was taking over the responsibility of Texas in the enforcement of state laws.

Secondly, the eastern and northern press, and even the international press, were, at that time, beginning to insinuate and openly state that there was some deep, dark, and mysterious conspiracy to prevent the truth from becoming known ... and that this conspiracy was being aided and abetted by the authorities of Texas. It was being said that the lips of the man accused of the President's assassination had been forever sealed by those who feared the story which he might tell. And they went on to hint darkly that the killing of Oswald had been allowed by the Dallas police ... either ingeniously ... or stupidly.

With such insinuations being made as to the veracity of Texas authorities, it was felt that Texas must quickly demonstrate its own initiative and desire to determine the facts ... no matter what they might reveal ... in plain view of the world through a public hearing.

And thirdly, the development and disclosure of the facts should sometime, in the course of the entire investigation, be done by a judicial hearing where witnesses would be examined under oath and where unwilling witnesses might be forcibly subpoenaed. The federal government had no statutes whereby this could be accomplished. The state of Texas, however, does have such a statute which authorizes the calling of a Court of Inquiry for the purpose of determining whether a crime has been committed. Such a court has state-wide subpoena powers, authority to enforce the attendance of witnesses should the subpoena be disobeyed, and authority to place each witness under oath to tell the truth ... such oath to be enforced by a felony indictment for perjury should the witness lie. The examination would be conducted by the Attorney General of Texas and the local District Attorney.

We also planned to select one or more outstanding lawyers of Texas, not connected with the government, as special counsel. These eminent attorneys would work closely with the Attorney General and the local District Attorney in the preparation and conduct of the Court of Inquiry.

I agreed that Texas had an unusual obligation to determine the facts and to make them public. It was only in this manner that the world of the present and future would know the difference between fact and rumor. In accordance with this decision, I announced in Washington that I would call a Court of Inquiry upon my return to Texas.

Within the next 24 hours, the United States Department of Justice sent its third-ranking assistant Attorney General, Mr. Herb Miller, head of the criminal division, to Austin. This visit was felt to be desirable for two reasons.

First, to make initial decisions as to how the federal and state governments could most effectively work together toward their common objective of establishing facts, and secondly, to visibly demonstrate to the people of Texas that the federal government recognized the responsibility of Texas in the determination of facts arising out of these tragic events. Mr. Miller was accompanied to Austin by the U. S. District Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Mr. Barefoot Sanders of Dallas. During a two hour conference, we were able to establish a very fine basis of cooperation.

Immediately following this meeting, a press conference was held, with all three of us present, where statements were mutually made expressing the desire of both governments to cooperate in this objective. It was announced that this would be a three-pronged affair.

(1) The FBI would make its full report to the President, and Texas would cooperate in this first step by turning all files and evidence over to the FBI so that agency might have the benefit of our information in making its report to the President. This we promptly did.

(2) The second phase of the investigation would be the Texas Court of Inquiry which was to be called as soon as the state could prepare its evidence following the report of the FBI to the President. In this phase, the federal government, including, of course, the FBI, would cooperate with Texas authorities by making all federal evidence and witnesses available for the Court of Inquiry. This included even witnesses outside the State of Texas and thus beyond the reach of a Texas subpoena.

(3) The third phase would be undertaken by the Presidential Commission. This Commission would possess all of the facts developed by the federal agencies as well as the testimony from the Texas Court of Inquiry, and from these facts, would draw conclusions and report its findings.

Immediately thereafter, the top staff of my office began to brief legal questions which confronted us in the selection of a city where the Court might be held, as well as many other questions which you would expect to arise in such an endeavor.

From the very outset, we remained in close contact with the White House staff, the Governor's office, and the office of the Dallas District Attorney, Mr. Henry Wade.

One of the most pressing and important decisions which I had to make was the selection of one or more eminent Texas lawyers who would serve as special counsel. It was necessary that these men have, not only the highest possible prestige and respect of the people of Texas, but also the people of this nation.

It was vitally necessary that the character of this investigation remain non-political and unbiased, and we knew that our success in this area would depend to a very high degree on the reputation and ability of the special counsel. Therefore, my decision here required Texas, national, and indeed, worldly consideration.

As you know, I selected Houston attorney Leon Jaworski and Dallas attorney Robert G. Storey. Both of these men enjoy reputations for ability and integrity in the practice of law which are far beyond reproach from coast to coast.

Both men served as prosecutors of war criminals following World War II, and both are Past Presidents of the Texas Bar Association. Mr. Jaworski is a Past President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Mr. Storey is a Past President of the American Bar Association.

To tell you all of the accomplishments of these two dedicated men would take the better part of an afternoon. Let it be said to the everlasting credit of both that when I requested their assistance, they immediately accepted, knowing that this service could be given to their state and nation only at considerable personal expense and loss of time in their private practice of law.

A few days later, President Johnson announced the creation of the Presidential Special Commission. In his announcement, the President stated that this Commission should take into consideration all of the facts developed by all investigative agencies, as well as testimony from the Texas Court of Inquiry.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Jaworski and I were requested by the Department of Justice to come to Washington for the purpose of discussing ways in which we could continue to most effectively cooperate. During our stay in the nation's capitol, the Presidential Commission held two meetings for the purpose of perfecting its organization and hiring of its staff. As you know, this Commission is made up of seven members appointed by the President. Its Chairman is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl Warren. Other members are Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat from Georgia; Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican from Kentucky; Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat from Louisiana; Representative Gerald Ford, Michigan Republican; Allen Dulles, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and John J. McCloy, former special advisor on disarmament to President Kennedy. All of them are lawyers.

Chief Justice Warren visited personally with Mr. Jaworski and me in behalf of the Commission. At that time he made the following request, and he repeated this request in a letter which he sent to me in Austin. I quote in part from that letter:

"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 or 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 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 conclusion based upon partial factual information. In addition 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 upon 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."

As a result of these conferences with the Chairman of the Commission, J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI, top level authorities of the Department of Justice and the White House, Mr. Jaworski and I had become convinced that the investigative authority of the federal government was being used to the fullest extent. The

Commission would be granted subpoena powers, and the investigation, which had already reached across many states and several nations, was being conducted vigorously. Therefore, pursuant to the Commission's request, it was our considered judgment that the Texas Court of Inquiry, if held at this time or in the immediate future might bring about an interruption in the continuity of the nationwide investigation.

For these reasons, it was my conclusion and decision that the convening of the Texas Court of Inquiry should, for the present time, be withheld. At the same time that I announced this decision, I also accepted the invitation of the Special Commission in which they asked Mr. Jaworski, Dean Storey, and me to attend their hearings and assist with the Commission's important task.

Since that time, Mr. Jaworski, Dean Storey, and I have returned to Washington to begin our work with the Commission. At that time, we examined all evidence which has been placed in the hands of the Commission, as well as the future plans of the Commission, and I can honestly tell you that we were impressed with the thoroughness of the investigation that is planned.

As I talk to you, the investigation continues to cross state lines ... and even into foreign countries. It is a voluminous task.

It is my desire, and I believe the desire of the Commission, that all the evidence and proof gathered by this cooperative effort be made public at the proper time.

It is imperative that this report be thorough and that it be able to stand the test of future examination by us and the world.

Let me stress once again that it is clearly understood by all concerned that if, after we have assisted the Commission in this work, we feel the necessity of additional investigation to disclose further facts, we will then have no hesitancy in calling for the Texas Court of Inquiry.

Only one thing is uppermost in our minds. Every possible fact concerning these tragic events must be sought out and established. Then, and only then, will the public confirm that justice has been accomplished.

Now, before I leave you today, let me dwell for just a moment on a subject upon which I have formed some very deep feelings in these succeeding weeks since that fateful day of November 22nd.

I have become increasingly concerned with the general abuse which has been heaped on this wonderful State of Texas and the overall condemnation of the City of Dallas which has resulted in some quarters.

Much has been said about the political climate of Texas, and Dallas in particular, prior to that tragic date, but too much has been left unsaid by too many people ... and the result has been an unjust villification which should be of deep regret to sober-thinking people everywhere.

Our eastern writers were quick to brand Texas as a city of political extremism. I would assume that we could also paraphrase that to state that our citizens hold deep convictions. In any event, it is inconceivable that one political reaction, applicable to ten million citizens, could result from the deed of one twisted mind.

I think it is comforting to note, however, that these vicious and wholesale attacks were the results of momentary prejudice and emotion. Since that time, it is heartening to find our Eastern writers and commentators, possibly after a great deal of self examination, returning to a more reasonable line of thought, and, in some cases, actually apologizing for words uttered in haste.

Certainly it would be folly to say that all of these discordant voices have been silenced, however, even though they continue, you must never allow these emotional attacks to destroy the confidence of a great state.

And to those who persist in libeling our citizens, I would say "Come to Texas ... come and talk with us. Talk to our people who have the same dreams ... the same aspirations... and the same measures of success and failure as the people of any other geographic division. Come to Texas and talk with the parents of 26,000 men and women who gave their lives while defending these United States in World War II and the Korean conflict."

And finally, I would say to these analysts, come to Texas and talk with our ministers, our priests, and our rabbis, and discover that our people have the same abiding faith, the same reverence, and the same sincere belief in spiritual guidance.

I think we would all agree that nothing is needed so desperately today than a cessation of finger pointing by one area of our country toward another. The fact that each of us may share different political beliefs should not open the flood gates of slander to any group or area.

There is an oft-quoted statement which I think best describes my feelings in this matter. It says that "There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, that it ill-behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us." How true. We can also turn to the Bible which tells us "let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

All America today needs the outspoken influence of men who recognize that a difference of opinion, as long as it is expounded in a reasonable and non-violent manner, is the very heart of our democratic system.

I know not what our history books will say concerning these tragic events which occurred within our state. But this I do know:

Out of the tumult will arise a state with greater vitality than ever before ... a state whose citizens, gaining strength from each other and from the Almighty God, will reach heights never before attained in its history.

For you see, I know the citizens and the leaders of Texas. I know the force, the tenacity, and the moral courage which exists here. And I know that the only result can be a stronger... more vibrant Texas.

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE