Prospective witnesses- Jack Revill 1/4/69

If I were to select a single Dallas policeman of 11/22/63 from whom there might be a hope of getting good information, then-Lt. Jack Revill would be the man. His statement that Hosty told him the FBI knew Oswald had the capability but they didn't expect him to do anything is something he stuck to under great pressure and knowing full well the support Hosty would have, knowing that the full power of the FBI and the federal government would be behind Hosty. To me, this means he is no coward. Given a choice between crediting him and Hosty, there really is no problem, especially with the information we have about the federal protection of Hosty and his subsequent punishment and demotion (he is now in Kansas City). Hosty, according to Penn Jones, was also a bridge-playing partner of Surrey, Walker's friend and business associate and the guy who printed the scurrilous handbill.

We now know that the FBI transcription of Oswald's notebook was designed to protect Hosty, to eliminate his appearance in it, and that the page was done over to accomplish this. We have the documents that prove it. None of this can be accidental. It can be no accident that there was more FBI interest in the Oswald's in Dallas than the testimony shows. It is less than an accident that it took Hosty a full month after the assassination to type up his notes and he then had the effrontery to burn his handwritten notes -without criticism or even questions being asked.

Revill
He left the police department, not the most common thing for a man who has risen to lieutenant, and, according to Paul Rothermel, is the number three man in the State Public-Safety Division, I think in Houston. Rothermel has a high opinion of him as a man, believes he is dependable and honest, and thinks he does have assassination information. If he knows what this is, he did not indicate it to me. It may be just his hunch.

One of the more fascinating aspects of Exhibit 709 is that it reveals the police had an address on Oswald, but a wrong one! This adds point to the Commission staff questions about how the police knew to go so promptly to 1026. The official explanation does not survive examination. It is that he told this to Fritz. It did not satisfy the staff lawyers, not at the beginning, anyway. I have their memo on it. Hosty told Revill what is known to be false, that Oswald was a member of the Communist Party. I suggest a careful reading of this exhibit. Note that it is sworn to, was written immediately. The source of Oswald's wrong address could not have been Hosty.

As with Butler (who Bob Castorr told me Rothermel does not like, and in his way Rothermel sort of confirmed this), calling Revill is a stab in the dark. I think it would be worth it. As an alternative, if I go to see Mrs. Mersikes, which Moo indicated might be desirable, I might include Revill and Butler on the same trip, which needn't take long. If he would fly, we could do all of this in two days. By prearrangement, they could be on a weekend.