

went to, apparently, a bull fight and Jai alai and other things down there, according to his little notebook, and it is difficult to believe that he could be gone that long from her and come back and she would never ask him where he had been, and if he gave her this bracelet which she never says that she ever received, but we are going to have to ask her about all of that, how she could have not known something that was going on about that.

In addition to that, there is this Spanish dictionary, and the books about Spanish where he was trying to learn Spanish, although he had known some Spanish before he went to Russia, and we are trying to run that down to find out what he studied at the Monterey School of the Army in the way of languages because she used to make fun of him, according to some of their Russian friends, about his pronunciation of Spanish words, and he was very clumsy at it, and was embarrassed by her making jokes about that.

The Chairman. How would she know that, that he was mispronouncing Spanish words? She couldn't speak Spanish. She couldn't even speak English, she spoke Russian. How would she know that, I wonder.

Mr. Rankin. There is no explanation of her friends saying, and it is possible she got that from her other Russian friends, but there is no indication that they were Spanish-speaking so far as anything we have.

Neither the Report nor Oswald's service records refer to this language schooling. His service record appears in Volume 19, pp. 656ff; reference to his education record is on p. 662.

The Chairman. Of course there are so many Spanish-speaking people down in Texas.

Mr. Rankin. In the area.

The Chairman. That she might have gotten it from someone else.

Mr. Rankin. Then there is a great range of material in regard to the wounds, and the autopsy and this point of exit or entrance of the bullet in the front of the neck, and that all has to be developed much more than we have at the present time.

We have an explanation there in the autopsy that probably a fragment came out the front of the neck, but with the elevation the shot must have come from, and the angle, it seems quite apparent now, since we have the picture of where the bullet entered in the back, that the bullet entered below the shoulder blade to the right of the backbone, which is below the place where the picture shows the bullet came out in the neckband of the shirt in front, and the bullet, according to the autopsy didn't strike any bone at all, that particular bullet, and go through.

So that how it could turn and --

Rep. Boggs. I thought I read that bullet just went in a finger's length.

Mr. Rankin. That is what they first said. They reached in and they could feel where it came, it didn't go any further than that, about part of the finger or something, part of the autopsy, and then they proceeded to reconstruct where they thought

Instead of publishing a picture or a tracing of one, the Commission used a sketch prepared on the basis of mere recollections. The above description of the location of the back wound makes the entire Report impossible. The sketch is consistent with what the Report says. See p. 136

the bullet went, the path of it, and, which is, we have to go into considerable items and try to find out how they could reconstruct that when they first said that they couldn't even feel the path beyond the part of a finger.

And then how it could become elevated; even so it raised rather than coming out at a sharp angle that it entered, all of that, we have to go into, too, and we are asking for help from the ballistic experts on that.

We will have to probably get help from the doctors about it, and find out, we have asked for the original notes of the autopsy on that question, too.

Now, the bullet fragments are now, part of them are now, with the Atomic Energy Commission, who are trying to determine by a new method, a process that they have, of whether they can relate them to various guns and the different parts, the fragments, whether they are a part of one of the bullets that was broken and came out in part through the neck, and just what particular assembly of bullet they were part of.

They have had it for the better part of two and a-half weeks and we ought to get an answer.

So the basic problem, what kind of a wound it is in the front of the neck is of great importance to the investigation.

We believe it must be related in some way to the three sheets from the rear.

Sen. Cooper. You mean in the back?

The Commission avoided this neutron-activation testing as well as the earlier spectrographic analysis. Its files contain neither. The Department of Justice went to court to refuse to make the spectrographic analysis available to me. See pp. 7, 171-78, 187-88.

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Mr. Rankin. One, or something from a shot at the top of the head.

Mr. McCloy. It is possible that the third shot could have had a fragmentation.

Sen. Cooper. One doctor, as I remember, projected manual massage, to resuscitate him, that would cause the bullet to come back out of the back. Do you remember that?

Sen. Russell. Have you collected these charges against the raw material in here?

Mr. Rankin. I haven't, we may.

Mr. McCloy. Are we going to have at the examination of Marina the exhibits, for example, the bracelet and the rifle itself, because she has testified first that the rifle was not the rifle. Later she changed her testimony in that respect.

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Mr. McCloy. Will we get the rifle and the bracelets so she will be confronted with them?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Her testimony about the rifle, you know she only admitted to that after pictures were found and she had destroyed the pictures that were in the photo album after the mother had suggested that to her, and they found this in one of his sacks that they found other material, other clothing.

They have better than 400 different objects of physical evidence. Some of them are not related at all. They just happened

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to find them.

We think that the wound in the neck has to be related to one of these others, but the problem is difficult to determine because we have a statement from the hospital that the bullet that was more whole than the other was found on the stretcher which they brought the President in to the hospital on, and then we have other testimony later that goes back over the same ground in which the person in charge of the stretcher and the attendant said that this bullet was found under the blanket on the stretcher Governor Connally was on, and it is a complete --

Sen. Russell. I thought it was found on the stretcher of the President.

Mr. Rankin. That was the first story. And that is what we have to deal with, a story of that kind to try to reconcile it with people who actually handled the stretcher that Governor Connally was on and picked the bullet from under the blanket.

Now, that evidence is quite superior to the other man's, but we have to check it out some more to determine that.

Sen. Russell. This isn't going to be something that would run you stark mad.

Mr. Rankin. I don't know what we will run into, but --

Let me ask you about it because I have never seen anything about it. Whatever happened with that fellow who bought the front page ad and called the President a Communist?

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Bullet 399 was jarred out from under the mattress on the stretcher, and there is no evidence that the stretcher had been occupied by either President Kennedy or Governor Connally.

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Mr. Rankin. We haven't anything on that at all.

The Chairman. We ought to find that out.

Rep. Boggs. We ought to find it out. A most mysterious thing.

The Chairman. And I will tell you, we also ought to find out who published and circulated that little, not pamphlet but the little handbill that they put out about the President that morning. "Wanted for Treason".

Rep. Boggs. That is right.

The Chairman. That has got to be run down. There is no question about that.

Rep. Boggs. That is right.

Sen. Russell. You know the F.B.I. must have looked into that.

Mr. McCloy. Yes.

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Mr. Rankin. We have considerable material and we are going to go into some extent and I wanted to get the Commission's instructions about this, into the atmosphere, this hate material that was very common in that area in many regards. It was in the newspapers, it was in circulars of various kinds, it was in letters to the editor in the newspaper. It was also involved in sermons from the pulpit in some of those, in at least one of the leading churches of the city was involved in financing various forms of hate literature in very large amounts from that particular area, and it may well be that it was a contributing factor in not just as was suggested by some as far as the extreme right is concerned but also in stirring up various elements of the community who were expressing themselves in very extreme forms against anybody in power from the President on down from time to time.

And it may very well be --

Sen. Russell. Who printed this now?

Mr. Rankin. Well, the newspapers had some of it, the pamphlets were commonly circulated there, and I presume you are familiar with some of the E. L. Hunt's financing of various--

Sen. Russell. Yes, we got that about every two weeks, I don't read it but I get it.

Mr. Rankin. And all kinds of things coming from out there in substantial amounts and it apparently was not only exacerbating the community in a number of ways, not only of the extreme right and the extreme left but also the elements of the people more

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moderately inclined who didn't assert themselves in regard to that, and from some of the information we have, it is really the communities can be like people, and if you let those forces work long enough it will have an effect upon their approach to many problems, and it may be something that the country should well be aware of.

Sen. Russell. Do you think there is evidence of any connection between Oswald and any of those groups? The FBI is supposed to check that out pretty closely.

Mr. Rankin. We have no evidence that is clear that Oswald was connected with anybody but we also have very great problems --

Sen. Russell. We know he was connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Rep. Boggs. They denied he was a member, didn't they?

Mr. Rankin. They denied he was a member, and also he wrote to them and tried to establish as one of his letter indicates, a new branch there in New Orleans, the Fair Play for Cuba.

Rep. Boggs. That letter has caused me a lot of trouble. It is a much more literate and polished communication than any of his other writings.

Mr. Rankin. That is right. And he also proceeded to set it up by himself without anybody else as a member or anything, and I don't know as he ever got a member.

Rep. Boggs. They tried to get a list, you know, of his membership. He never produced a single person.

Sen. Russell. He produced a card saying -- he had one or two cards with his name.

Sen. Cooper. He had it printed and set up an office.

Rep. Boggs. That was a fictitious name that he used.

Sen. Cooper. I have one suggestion about what we have been talking about, I would think if we find out who put these advertisements in the paper and all that is very important. The other can come in as it is developed, but I think we might talk about this hate element too much because, I will tell you why, because people will begin to get the idea as some have already expressed of going away from evidence and trying to build up some situation which is apart from the evidence.

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Rep. Boggs. I think these factors such as that add, and these circulars should certainly be looked into.

Mr. Rankin. Then in the period that they lived in Russia there are manifold problems about the fact that the way he lived, the additional income he received under the name of the Red Cross, you will remember, the question of when that income terminated. She said he had never been to Leningrad. He said he had, she went to Kharkov, and there is no explanation of any communications between the two of them during that period of time. There is a period when they were there that she indicated she was fearful of her marriage, and whether it was -- it may not be maintained, there is no explanation of that in anything she has given in any of her

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interviews.

The fact that he was paid proportionately so much more than she was when he was a workman in the factory and she was at least a semi-skilled person with her pharmacy knowledge, and all, is another problem that isn't covered by any of her testimony.

The fact that they moved to another apartment during the period that they were trying to arrange to come to the United States, which according to what their testimony -- what she testified to, was going to be of relatively short time, that she would get an answer and it doesn't seem like there was any good reason for them to move to another apartment.

That is unexplained, and the members of her family are a curious thing. She was apparently a child with a father unknown at the time she was born, and yet she acquired a name of a father in some of the registrations under the Soviet system. Well, according to information we have it is very rare that they would insert anything like that or would allow it, because their controls are so carefully made to try to identify people all their life and particularly where they were born so they can trace down through for the rest of the period, and that is an unexplained feature.

Then the fact of her uncle and what his status was apparently a part of the Interior government and not a part of the Intelligence, but nevertheless he had a telephone, and the style in which they lived, and the apartment and all were very unusual comparatively.

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Sen. Russell. You mean while they were in Russia?

Mr. Rankin. Yes, I mean not only Oswald but this uncle, too, and it would appear that he was much more than just a person of the Interior government like she had said. From what we have been able to get from the CIA and others about it.

Then the fact she was allowed to leave the country the way she was is not adequately explained by her testimony, her statements or anything.

Why they did it so relatively promptly when that is a very difficult operation with most people, and what he did in Moscow when he went there, and was there for better than a month, and was there, and there's no explanation of what he did there.

Mr. Dulles. The beginning of his trip, you mean?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Mr. Dulles. When he tried to commit suicide?

Mr. Rankin. Yes. And then this period that he belonged to the gun club, and there is no explanation by her of that or what he did in that. He might have had all kinds of training during that period, that is entirely unexplained.

The fact that they went to, when they came back, they went to Amsterdam and were there for, I think, it was two days before they went to Rotterdam to take a boat, and it is unexplained why they happened to go there and stay, and got a place to live, some little apartment, and what they were doing in the interim, that entire period is just full of possibilities for training, for

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working with the Soviet, and its agents, and unusual compared with the experience of most Americans.

Now, you recognize it is going to be very difficult to get all of that out of her no matter how well informed we are about her, what she has testified to, what she has given statements about, and she has given a good many of them, and what her written statement in Russian is, all of those things will be --we have, and we examined them in great detail and are prepared on them, but whenever she gets to these areas that might be enlightening for us she is unable --

Sen. Russell. "Don't understand what you are talking about"?

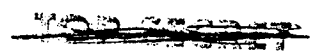
Mr. Rankin. That is correct. Give us anything on it and just seems to come up to a blank.

We are trying to get sufficient material to try to get to persuade her to try to explain how these things were possible, and it is difficult to anticipate what she will do except she may just say she can't understand or she doesn't know, and that will be all we can get out of her.

Mr. Dulles. Was the letter gone forward to the State Department for the Russians?

Mr. Rankin. It hasn't, it isn't going forward yet because we have to ask them about that, and the CIA is going to help us develop the questions, and they have been working.

Mr. Dulles. I think we ought to get that off as soon as we can.



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Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Mr. Dulles. If she has any chance to tell the Russian embassy, I don't know whether she will do it or not, she might after this interview, she might ask, get in touch in some way with the Russian embassy, they would be very anxious to get in touch with her. I guess the guard is such that they couldn't do that.

Mr. Rankin. Well, the Secret Service has been with her constantly and all. I don't know how much longer after we would take her testimony you would want that to continue.

Sen. Russell. What interpreter have you arranged to have?

Mr. Rankin. We have asked the State Department to furnish one and they have said they would do so. And we also are going to have a man from the Secret Service here who has been talking to her and translated everything so we could be sure about anything she said we wouldn't have to rely on just one person.

Sen. Russell. There is a fellow here named Reuben Efron who is one of the best that I ever saw.

Mr. Rankin. Is he with the State Department?

Sen. Russell. Do you know him, Mr. Dulles?

Mr. Dulles. I don't think I do.

The Chairman. Senator, is he with the State Department?

Sen. Russell. No, sir.

Mr. McCloy. There is another fellow named Akelovsky who is a star. He may be over in Geneva. It is awfully important that you get a bilingual man.

Mr. Rankin. We have a vast area about Ruby.

Mr. Dulles. This completes the other, the Oswald one?

Mr. Rankin. Just in a general way.

Sen. Russell. Has it every been determined whether he could drive an automobile or not? There has been a conflict in that in nearly everything I have read.

Mr. Rankin. They claim he never could drive an automobile. He didn't know how. That he took a lesson, I think about Mr. Paine's car and he got along all right but it was just a very preliminary.

Sen. Russell. Who drive him down to Mexico?

Mr. Rankin. That we haven't gotten.

Rep. Boggs. He went on a bus, didn't he?

Mr. Rankin. He went one way on a bus.

The Chairman. One way on a bus.

Sen. Russell. I thought he went down on bus and came back in a car.

Mr. Rankin. That is right.

Sen. Cooper. That would be very important, with whom he stayed down there. That is one of the curious things about it.

Rep. Boggs. I read that in some report.

Sen. Russell. That is right, I remember I did, too.

Sen. Cooper. What about the Paine's, is anything developing about them?

Mr. Rankin. Well, we asked for a full background report on the

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Paine's, and it is a very curious situation. She is a member of the Friends Society, and they are separated, and he is a member of an old New England family, and apparently quite well educated. She was teaching Russian in a school there where she lived, and she said that she was very much interested in having Marina stay with her so she could become more proficient in speaking Russian.

Mr. Dulles. Paine's father was a member of the Trotskyite Society of, I think, 11 members.

Mr. Rankin. Yes, sir, and there was no indication --

Sen. Russell. Whose father?

Mr. Dulles. Paine's father, the man's father. And the grandmother is around and she is quite an extraordinary character. I understand, Mrs. Young, she might have a good idea on this family.

Mr. Rankin. She has said that she didn't ever receive anything from them for food or lodging or anything, and apparently that is true from Mrs. Oswald, from what she says, and she has had just to learn what she could about Russian.

Sen. Russell. Oswald said the same thing along that line, I read something along the line.

Mr. Rankin. She seemed to be fond of Oswald's little girl June, they wrote a number of letters in which she wrote back and wanted to send her love to the little girl. She went down to New Orleans and brought Marina back.

Sen. Russell. Is she living alone in this place?

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Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Sen. Russell. What accounts for a good deal of the explanation.

Mr. Rankin. And she seemed to remember some of the things about the Oswalds and their difficulties and quarrels they had about him. She thought he was quite a disagreeable person, she said. But on the detail, when he went to Dallas, and whether he took the gun or whether the gun was in the garage, on that part, not much help there, and yet it is difficult to believe that two women would have this gun in a blanket in the corner of a garage and especially after that Walker affair and never even peak in there to see if that gun was there or what kind of a gun it was or whether he took it out sometimes and brought it back, and, of course, there are a good many stories about his practicing with a gun, you know, around various rifle ranges and so forth.

We have checked those out, and none of them stand up at all. We have gone over all of that to try to find out where he could ever gain the proficiency that he apparently had in this shooting that was done.

The Chairman. He was a sharpshooter in the Marines.

Mr. McCloy. In the Marine Corps?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Mr. McCloy. That is above the ordinary.

Mr. Rankin. But that is quite away below expert.

The Chairman. Marksman is average, but sharpshooter is above.

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"Marksman" is the minimum required rating of all services. "Sharpshooter" is the median rating. On his last testing, Oswald scored one point above the minimum for the lowest grade. The Marines described him officially as a "rather poor shot". (See Volume 19, pp. 16-18)

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Sen. Russell. Pretty near all of them are sharpshooter if they work at it.

The Chairman. Thank you, Senator, for coming.

Loc, you probably couldn't get into the Ruby affair anyway tonight, could you?

Mr. Rankin. There is a tremendous bulk of material on it.

Rep. Boggs. Could you give us just a quick synopsis of it?

Mr. Rankin. Apparently Ruby was born in Chicago, and after some years he went to the West Coast, Los Angeles, and then he came back to Chicago, and he changed his name, and then he went to Dallas, and then he came back from Dallas to Chicago, and then he goes back to Dallas, that is a brief history about what he did.

He has apparently all kinds of connections with the underworld, and he had a number of petty arrests, but the convictions were very unimportant. There weren't any -- I can't even remember one that amounted to anything.

Mr. Dulles. He never got to jail, did he?

Mr. Rankin. No, he paid a small fine on one or two. There are stories about his being a homosexual, and those don't pan out as far as any real proof, but it seems to be very current. There are also all kinds of stories about his girls and striptease girls and that they-- he spent time with them all the time, and there are some stories that he is a bisexual.

There isn't any question but what he planned to go down to Cuba, and he did, and the story was that it was in regard to arma-

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ments --

Mr. Dulles. Cuba?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Rep. Boggs. This was after Castro?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Rep. Boggs. You are sure about that?

Mr. Rankin. No, I am not. I had better check on that. But my recollection is that it was one of the stories was that he was to try to sell guns and ammunition to Castro, that is the way --

The Chairman. And jeeps.

Mr. McCloy. Yes, and jeeps.

Mr. Rankin. That is all denied, and that he was going down there to make the money on other kinds of sales but not anything that was munitions or armaments. There is no explanation of where he was there, what he did, or who his connections were. He had all kinds of connections with the minor underworld, I think you would call it, in Dallas and Chicago, but I don't -- it isn't apparent that any of the important people in the underworld would have given him any consideration at all as far as being a part of it.

Now, it would seem that he might have -- he might be the kind of person they might try to use. He was a habitue apparently of the Police Department, and was able to go to any part of it at any time, and they knew him. I was surprised at the conference we had with the District Attorney, that they said that when they had the lineup, he was in the same room. That is the first time I had

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over run across that, and he was in the back of the room, and then they had the screen where they lined up Oswald and several others for the lineups, to see if they could be recognized and the reporter said they couldn't take a decent picture through the screen, wouldn't they take Oswald to the side away from the screen so they could take some good pictures and so they did that, and they got him over to the side and they took the pictures and then Ruby came up, and he said, "Hello, Henry," and seemed to know Wade about as well as he knew all the police people, too, and he said, "Hello" to him.

And then they took Oswald out, and took him down the corridor, and then Ruby went out, and Wade talked to the press for two or three minutes, and then as he was going out, went out, started down the corridor, Ruby called to him from one of the inner offices of the police, and said that the TV station wanted to talk to him on the telephone.

Apparently he had called the TV station and told them that Wade was there, and they said call him to the telephone and we will get an interview with him.

So, apparently that is another thing that Wade thought was particularly important, you will be interested in it from the standpoint of premeditated action on his part, because this was -- this is a day and a half beforehand, and he was there, and showed no animosity at all at that time, but around -- but Wade doesn't know whether he had his gun that day or not, but he had a consider-

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able opportunity, even if you consider the various possibilities, at that time.

Mr. Dulles. That will be brought out at the trial, won't it?

Mr. Rankin. Yes.

Sen. Cooper. There hasn't anything been developed to show that they knew each other.

Mr. Rankin. There is no showing of connection, there is no showing that Oswald was the kind of person that would hang around the joints that Ruby had, either. It is possible that he could have in earlier days before he ever went to Russia, and that he might have just with some young people stopped in but that would have been a long time before.

Rep. Boggs. Oswald apparently didn't go to night clubs.

Mr. Rankin. He didn't have the income to do it very often.

Mr. McCloy. He seemed to have gathered up a considerable amount of income from that article from time to time. He had \$435. We know he had \$150, plus \$435. We know he had carfare to Mexico, which is not --

Rep. Boggs. I must go, too, Mr. Chief Justice.

Mr. Dulles. When do you want another meeting, Mr. Chairman. Do you have any idea?

The Chairman. We haven't at the present time, Allen. This is all we have to present to you today. We will keep at it and we will let you know as soon as we pick up something that should challenge our attention.

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Rep. Boggs. It is a very fine presentation.

Mr. McCloy. February 5th I go out of the country for a week.

The plot thickens, doesn't it?

Mr. Rankin. Would you have time tomorrow?

Mr. Dulles. yes.

Mr. Rankin. About the meeting with the CIA and the FBI and the State Department, would you have time tomorrow if I can set that meeting up?

The Chairman. Yes, I will do it.

All right, gentlemen, thank you.

The meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 5:50 o'clock p.m., the President's Commission adjourned subject to call of the Chair.)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408



JUL 22 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of June 19, 1974, in which you call into question the timing of the mandatory classification review of the Warren Commission transcript of January 27, 1964, undertaken as a result of your filing suit for access to this document in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Section 5(D) of Executive Order 11652 (37 F.R. 5209; 3A CFR, 1972 Comp., at 154, 161) provides for the mandatory classification review upon request of certain categories of classified records, one of which included the requested transcript, if the document in question was created before the issuance of E.O. 11652 and is at least ten years old. Shortly after the filing of your suit, our attorneys advised me of the necessity for such a review in light of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the transcript's creation. In accordance with the terms of the Executive Order, I solicited the opinions and comments of the Department of Justice and the Central Intelligence Agency, agencies which had a direct subject matter interest in the contents of the requested record, concerning the proposal of the General Services Administration to declassify the transcript and make it available for public research. Regrettably, despite our frequent reminders about the ongoing litigation, final agreement with our proposal was not received until after the court's decision was issued. Within a week of reaching this agreement, this agency declassified the transcript and, notwithstanding the decision in Weisberg v. United States General Services Administration, made copies of it available to you and to another requester who had previously been denied access.

While this agency did not provide you a final administrative decision on your 1972 request for access to the transcript, this oversight (unfortunate but understandable in light of the quantity and variety of requests and answers contained in correspondence between us) did not in and of itself

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cause any further delay in your receipt of a copy of the transcript. At that time, pursuant to your request and to the request of another researcher, a classification review was undertaken of the transcript. As a result of that review, we were advised that in the interest of national security the classification of "Top Secret" should be maintained for the time being. The other requester was given a final agency decision denying him access at that time; while we neglected to issue a similar decision to you, at no time during the course of the recent litigation did this agency contend that you had failed to exhaust your administrative remedies. Accordingly, your case was reviewed by the court on its substantive merits and not on any procedural deficiencies.

We hope that the above helps explain the timing of your receipt of the requested transcript. Once again, we regret the inconvenience and expense necessitated by the resultant delay in declassifying the record.

Sincerely,



JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

This is another of those journeys into official semantics in which the Archivist makes non-response that is simultaneously self-serving, as in the pretense that "the interest of national security" had anything to do with the suppression. The court had already thrown this out after presentation of the government's arguments and "evidence".

The alleged reviewer of classification is not identified in Rhoads' sworn response to our depositions nor is this review included in his accounting of who had access to the transcript.

There is no explanation of the waiver of the fraudulently-invoked investigatory files exemption. That the alleged review resulted in declassification has no relevance to this completely separate claimed right to continue to suppress as an investigatory file for law enforcement purposes, after the government had procured a court victory on this claim.

Because what follows questions Ford's integrity, if not exactly as with that other "leaker", Ellsberg, a few of his comments and those about him when he became President present the opposite view. "I believe in [the] basic decency and fairness ... integrity and patriotism ... old-fashioned ideas," he told Congress 8/12/74. Saying in his inaugural address that honesty is the best policy, he went on to ask, "Let us restore the golden rule." On 8/13/74 he said he would preside over "an open, honest government". The next day Jack Anderson described him as "an intensely human President, basically decent, inherently honest, without guile." That same day's Washington Post forecast his veto of the then pending amendments to the Freedom of Information law: "... Deputy Attorney General Laurence H. Silberman telephoned several House conferees to warn that ... provisions might be unacceptable to Mr. Ford. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D. - Mass.), one of the conferees, said he got a similar message from Attorney General William R. Saxbe."

This examination of Gerald Ford's unindicated editing of the January 27, 1964 TOP SECRET transcript was prepared by Paul Hoch, a painstaking investigator of the Warren investigation who is renowned for his attention to fine detail and his resultant fine research.

Where there has been editing other than minor punctuation or spelling changes, the appropriate lines in the facsimile page from the Ford book has been annotated with the corresponding page and line number of the transcript. The nature of each change is described to the right of the facsimile page, and the reader may of course check for himself in the actual transcript.

The deliberateness and extensiveness of Ford's misrepresentation is apparent. Whatever his motive, the result is to suppress that which and those whom he chose to protect. Because his editing is not indicated in any way, it amounts to planned dishonesty.

Discussions among members of the Commission on Monday, January 27, indicated they couldn't agree more—but just how to go about uncovering the facts was not an easy matter.

Because of the background of Mr. Allen Dulles, other members turned to him for suggestions on how best to handle this touchy matter. What were they to do with a story like this?

"This is a terribly hard thing to disprove," he told the others.

"Let's take a specific case," Representative Hale Boggs suggested. "That fellow Powers was one of your men."

"Oh yes, but he was not an agent. He was an employee."

"There was no problem in proving he was employed by the CIA?"

"No, we had a signed contract."

In the case of the U-2 incident and Powers, he was not an undercover agent, as Mr. Dulles pointed out. The problem was far more difficult with a true undercover agent, where there is nothing in writing.

Mr. Boggs observed with some uneasiness, "What you do is to make out a problem, if this be true—make our problem utterly impossible, because you say this rumor can't be dissipated under any circumstance."

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T152.8: Ford substitutes "This" for "There" and omits "you know" after "disprove". Ford skips to T152.22.

T152.24: "but" added before "he".

T153.2: "?" substituted for "."

T153.4-16: Ford omits the following:

Rep. Boggs. Let's say Powers did not have a signed contract but he was recruited by someone in CIA. The man who recruited him would know, wouldn't he?

Mr. Dulles. Yes, but he wouldn't tell. The Chairman. Wouldn't tell it under oath?

Mr. Dulles. I wouldn't think he would tell it under oath, no.

The Chairman. Why?

Mr. Dulles. He ought not tell it under oath. Maybe not tell it to his own government but wouldn't tell it any other way.

Mr. McGloay. Wouldn't he tell it to his own chief?

Mr. Dulles. He might or might not. If he was a bad one then he wouldn't.

T153.17: "to" substituted for "you" before "make out..."

T153.19: "circumstance" substituted for "circumstances".

Commission would face in dealing not only with the possibility that Oswald might be an FBI agent but also with all the myriad rumors that the imaginations of thousands of writers would create in the next thousand years. They dramatized the complexity of the Commission's charge. A free society must have some secret agencies to defend itself against the deception of its potential enemies. On the other hand, secrecy is the enemy of truth, and the Commission was appointed by the President of the United States to find out *all* the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Rankin, chief counsel for the Commission, explained why Dallas' District Attorney Wade was so troubled. Wade had told Rankin about his wartime experiences as a former FBI man.

"He did say he had considerable experience with the FBI and knew their practices, that he handled as much as \$2,000 a month during the war period in which he paid off informers and undercover agents in South America, and he knew that it wasn't revealed on any records he ever handled who he was paying it to and he never got any receipts, and it wasn't the practice to get receipts; that he would have a list of numbers in his office—that was one of the most closely guarded records that he had—and he would put down the amount he paid off.

"He was frank, however, about stating that he didn't know whether that practice continued; he didn't know how they were doing it; that was a long time ago and how the FBI would handle any such transaction now, he didn't know.

"He thought that the postal box was an ideal way to handle such transactions and was a way he had used at various times in the past too.

"He didn't indicate that he was sure this was the case at all. He just indicated that it was a possibility, and some of the things that happened he thought were curious."

In mentioning the use of postal boxes, Wade was thinking of the habit Oswald had of using these blind addresses wherever he went—again, why?

The dilemma of the Commission was how to go about checking the allegation that the FBI was involved in this matter. For more than thirty years the FBI had been one of the most highly respected agencies of the United States Government. Not that the members of the Commission would be awed by the prestige of the bureau or of

T135.4

Skips back to T135.4.

T135.4: "has" omitted between "he" and "had".

T135.12ff: Ford omits after "paid off": "including such people as the head of the government in Ecuador, or the police in Ecuador, and he said that he was paying him more than his salary each month, so that they got better service than the local government did. And so he indicated that he knew how these things were handled at that time."

T135.12

T135.22

T135.22: Originally, "He didn't know" was a separate sentence, at the beginning of the next paragraph.

T135.23

T135.23: "that" omitted between "way" and "he".

T135.25

T135.25: "that" omitted between "sure" and "this".

T136.2

T136.2: "had" omitted between "that" and "happened".

its almost legendary director, J. Edgar Hoover, but certainly it would not be justified in plunging into the matter in some irresponsible manner that might jeopardize the effectiveness of an important agency's future operations.

The President's order creating the Commission implicitly authorized it to look into the security policies of the Secret Service. Every intelligence agency of the Government also had to be scrutinized. The Commission would have to devise an approach that was independent of all these agencies, and yet obviously the President's Commission could not create a "scientific crime bureau" of its own just for the purpose of this inquiry. They would need trained men from the CIA, the Secret Service, local police and certainly the FBI. They would need fingerprint experts, ballistics experts, handwriting analysts and dozens of other professional helpers. Thus the matter of determining at the outset how to handle the rumor that Oswald was connected with the FBI was a test of the ability of the Commission to execute its mission. Its members approached this challenge carefully. Senator Russell asked chief counsel Lee Rankin, "What steps, if any, have we taken to clear up this matter, Mr. Rankin, if it can be cleared up, to determine whether there is anything to this or not?"

Mr. Rankin: "Well, we have discussed various possibilities—that is, the Chief Justice and myself have—and I want to tell you about them, and I think you will have to instruct us what you want us to do.

"We thought, first, about approaching the Department with a request that the Attorney General inform us as to the situation, not only as to what he would say about whether Oswald was or was not an undercover agent, but also with the supporting data that the Commission could rely upon.

"I suggested the possibility for the Commission to consider that I should go over and see Edgar Hoover myself and tell him this problem and that he should have as much interest as the Commission in trying to put an end to any such speculations, not only by his statement, which I would be frank to tell him I would think would not be sufficient, but also if it was possible to demonstrate by whatever records and materials they have that it just couldn't be true, and see if we couldn't get his cooperation to present that with the understanding that the Commission—and stated understanding, at the time—the Commission would have to feel free to make such other inves-

Omits T136.21-137.15: "... commission could rely upon, and there is some difficulty about doing that. As the head of the department, the F.B.I., of course, is under the Attorney General, but I think we must frankly recognize amongst ourselves that there is a daily relationship there involved in the handling of the problems of the Department and the work of the F.B.I. for the Department, and that we wouldn't want to make that more difficult.

We were informed by Mr. Willens, the liaison with the Department, who has worked with us and has done very fine work here, that it is the feeling of the Department, not the Attorney General because he is not here, but Mr. Katzenbach, and Mr. Miller, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, that such a request might be embarrassing, and at least would be difficult for the Attorney General, and might, if urged, while we would get the information we desired, make very much more difficult for him to carry on the work of the Department for the balance of his term.

Sen. Russell. If he would transmit to us what they told him, the F.B.I. has a very large measure of autonomy in their operations.

Mr. Rankin. In light of that, I suggested ..."

T137.16: picks up here after above omission.

T136.21
T137.16

tigation and take testimony if it found it necessary, in order to satisfy the American people that this question of an undercover agent was out of the picture."

Representative Boggs asked, "What other alternatives are there?" Mr. Rankin replied, "Well, the other alternative would be to examine Hudkins, the reporter. Also to examine Hosty, the FBI agent who was working in that area, and to examine the Special Agent in charge of the area, and to examine Mr. Hoover, under oath, right up the line."

"We do have a dirty rumor that is very bad for the Commission, the problem, and it is very damaging to the agencies that are involved in it and it must be wiped out insofar as it is possible to do so by this Commission."

"So it seemed to me in light of the way I would treat it, if I were in their position, would be to have someone approach me, tell me the problem and see what I frankly could do to clear my skirts, if there was a way to do it, and as long as the Commission didn't agree not to go further, if they felt that would not satisfy them, I don't see how the Commission would be prejudiced."

Chairman Warren: "Well, Lee and I both agreed that we shouldn't leave this thing in this present posture, that we should go ahead and try to clear the matter up as best we can."

"Now, my own suggestion was to Lee that we find out first from these people as far as we can if there is any substance to it or whether it is just plain rumor."

"It may be that Hudkins would claim privilege. If he did, I thought that after we tried to get him to see that it was in the interest of his country to state the facts that we might go to the publisher of his paper and see if we couldn't get--enlist him to have this man tell us where he got his information."

"Lee, on the other hand, felt it would be the better part of cooperation to go over and see Mr. Hoover and tell him frankly what the rumor was, state that it is pure rumor--we haven't evaluated the facts--but ask him, first, if it is true, and secondly if he can supply us with information to establish that these facts are not true, and they are inconsistent with what would be the way of operation of their bureau."

Mr. McCloy observed, "If we got a statement from the Department that the Attorney General and perhaps from Mr. Hoover, or

T138.6: After "examine Hudkins, the reporter," Ford omits "to examine Sweatt, who says now that he--" Dulles interrupts; brief exchange about Hudkins' present location; Rankin continues where Ford picks up, on T139.1: "Mr. Rankin. To examine Hosty, the FBI Agent..." T139.4: Omits 4 lines: "I felt, however, as I told the Chief Justice, that I thought this Commission was entitled to have the full cooperation of another Government Agency, and that we don't have what I would consider any substantial proof of this rumor." T139.12: "that" omitted between "of" and "the way".

T139.17 to 140.3: discussion of Wade's assessment of the rumor omitted T140.5: Omits 6 lines: "We did argue a little about the approach, whether we should go first to the FBI and ask them for an explanation or whether we should first go and try to see if there is any substance to the claim by interrogating the newspaperman who claims that he has the knowledge of the situation, or whether we should first go to the Bureau." T140.14-21 omitted: "We were told that Sweatt says he got his information from one fellow, Alexander claims he got it from the newspaper man."

T140.14 T140.22 those three people in one room at the same time, and find out if anybody claims or has claimed in the past to have had actual knowledge of it, and if they don't claim to have it, we will find out why they spread the rumor." T140.22 should read: "It may be that Houston will, or whatever his name is, Hudkins would claim privilege." Skips from T141.2 to 141.21, discussion of privilege omitted and: "The Chairman. ... I said to Lee that if I were in the position of the FBI, and I was asked to respond to a rumor, just a plain rumor of this kind, that I would be inclined to ask for what facts, what the facts were and what they were based on before I was obliged to make a statement."

T142.2 T155.1 I think that would - you don't like to talk into an empty barrel. You want to attach your writing to something substantial."

Skips from T.142.2 to 155.1.

from Mr. Hoover himself, which said, 'I am telling you that this man was not in any way employed by the FBI, or in the case of John McCloy or the CIA, I think that probably stops us, unless we run into something . . .'

Mr. Rankin: "Allen, how would you feel about it, if you were head of the CIA now, and the same claim was made and this Commission was worried about the claim being believed by the public, and they would ask you, would you want the Commission to come to you directly?"

Mr. Dulles: "Oh, yes, certainly I would."

Mr. Rankin: "Or would you want us to go out and examine witnesses first?"

Mr. Dulles: "I think I would want you to come so I could give you leads as to how you could examine witnesses if you wanted to."

Mr. Rankin: "If you had us out examining witnesses about whether you had the man in your employ, would you feel that we were not very fair to you?"

Mr. Dulles: "No. I don't think I would."

Mr. Rankin: "That wouldn't bother you."

Mr. Dulles: "No."

Senator Russell: "There is no man in the employ of the Federal Government who stands higher in the opinion of the American people than J. Edgar Hoover."

Mr. Dulles: "That is right."

Senator Russell: "Of course, we can get an affidavit from Mr. Hoover and put it in this record and go on and act on that, but if we didn't go any further than that, and we don't pursue it down to Hudkins or whoever it is, there still would be thousands of doubting Thomases who would believe this man was an FBI agent and you just didn't try to clear it up and you just took Hoover's word."

"Personally, I would believe J. Edgar Hoover. I have a great deal of confidence in him."

Mr. Dulles: "I do, too."

Senator Russell: "But the other people—I would believe, a simple statement as Holy Writ, this one statement without being under oath, but you can't try cases that way, and you can't base the conclusions of this Commission on that kind of material."

Senator Cooper: "I would like to have your idea about what I suggested."

T155.2

T155.6
T156.17

T155.2: "himself" added after "Mr. Hoover".

Skips from T155.6 to 156.17, omitting discussion of the use of receipts by intelligence agencies to eliminate undercover agents.

T157.8
T158.1

Skips from T157.8 to 158.1.

Mr. McCloy: "State it again."

Senator Cooper: "We know these people have been here, so this speculation or rumor is somewhat official—we will not say it has their approval, but they don't disapprove it."

Mr. McCloy: "They have taken cognizance of it."

Senator Cooper: "That being true, since we are under a duty to see what Hudkins says about it, where he got that information, my suggestion was we do that but apprise Mr. Hoover about the facts—where this information comes from, that we have to inquire into it, that we will inquire into it, and then later talk to him further about it and see if there are any facts which he ought to know about, and it would be a matter of justice to him instead of having him disprove it from the beginning."

Mr. McCloy: "What is your objection, John, to going to Hoover or the Department of Justice, or the CIA, John McCone, or Under Secretary of Defense—he has an intelligence unit too—and ask them if they can give us any information which would prove or disprove this rumor?"

Senator Cooper: "I haven't got any objection to it, but even if—we are dealing with the FBI now—if Mr. Hoover makes his statement, I think still by reason of the fact you have heard these people and they have said that Hudkins does have some information about the truth of it, whether it is so or not, you still are under a duty to examine them."

Chairman Warren: "We must go into this thing from both ends, from the end of the rumormongers and from the end of the FBI, and if we come into a *cul de sac*—well, there we are, but we can report on it."

"Now that is the way it would appeal to me. These are things where people can reasonably disagree. Whatever you want to do I am willing to approach it in that manner."

Mr. Rankin: "Would it be acceptable to go ahead and find out what we could about these—"

Mr. McCloy: "Hudkins' sources."

Mr. Rankin: "Then if he [J. Edgar Hoover] reacts and says, 'I want to show you that it couldn't be,' or something like that, beforehand, what about that kind of an approach?"

Chairman Warren: "Well, Lee, I wouldn't be in favor of going to any agency and saying, 'We would like to do this.' I think we ought

T158.23: "somewhat" substituted for "just some"; "it has their" added after "not say".

T158.25: "taken" added after "they have".

T159.2: Ford again omits reference to Allan Sweatt. Transcript reads, "see what Hudkins and Sweatt say about it, where you get that information."

T159.4: "from, that" added after "information comes"; "later" added after "and then".

T159.9: "to going to it, I don't know whether it is Hoover" omitted after "What is your objection, John".

T159.10-14: Wording changed; should read: "... or Under-Secretary of Defense, he has an intelligence unit too, this man, it has come up, we would like to know, can you give us any information which would prove or disprove this rumor."

T159.15: "any" added after "haven't got".

T159.19: "so" added after "whether it is".

Skips from T159.20 to T162.8, omitting a major, revealing discussion of whether and when to deal with the agency heads.

T162.10: Wording changed; should read, "into a cul de sac why we are there but".

Skips from T162.14 to T163.25, omission of discussion concerning the FBI's penetration of the FPCC and the CPUSA, the use of stupid or immoral undercover agents, and the "limited mentalities" McCloy has run into in the CIA and FBI.

T163.25ff: Change of wording alters sense of Rankin's question. Transcript reads: "Mr. Rankin. Would it be acceptable to go to Mr. Hoover and tell him about the situation and that we would like to go ahead and find out what we could about these --"

to know what we are going to do, and do it, and take our chances one way or the other.
"I don't believe we should apologize or make it look that we are in any way reticent about making any investigation that comes to the Commission."

Mr. Rankin: "I don't think the country is going to be satisfied with the mere statement from, not to use Mr. Hoover's name, but just examine about any intelligence agency that Oswald wasn't hired, in light of this kind of an accusation, a rumor."
"I think that the country is going to expect this Commission to try to find out the facts as to how those things are handled to such an extent that this Commission can fairly say, 'In our opinion, he was or was not an employee of any intelligence agency of the United States.'"

It was the consensus of all seven men that the only way to proceed was to conduct extensive and thorough hearings of as many witnesses as was necessary to exhaust not just this rumor but dozens of other rumors. Where doubts were cast on any United States agency, independent experts would be hired and the investigation conducted in such a way as to avoid reliance on a questioned authority. No matter what the cost in time or money, every facet of the events in Dallas had to be explored. The Commission drew up an exhaustive list of witnesses and collected for analysis all pertinent books and magazines and newspaper articles. The staff compiled a directory of names of all persons said to have had any part in the matter. Then began months of hearings, hours of taking sworn testimony, which led from one skein of facts to another. Seldom has a crime appeared to be more complicated and mysterious. Never has a crime been so thoroughly investigated. From that investigation comes this biography of an assassin.

T164.13
T175.2

T164.13ff: Omission of following discussion:
[The Chairman.] But on the other hand, I don't want to be unfriendly or unfair to him.
My own judgment was that the most fair thing to do would be to try to find out if this is fact or fiction.
Mr. Rankin. What I was fearful of was the mere process will cause him to think, in light of these people being here and all, and the meetings of the Commission, that we are really investigating him.
The Chairman. If you tell him we are going down there to do it, we are investigating him, aren't we?
Mr. Rankin. I think it is inherent.
The Chairman. If we are investigating him, we are investigating the rumor against him, we are investigating him, that is true.
I don't want to belabor the thing at all.

Skips to T175.2, in the middle of a paragraph.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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Washington, D.C.

Friday, September 18, 1964

The President's Commission met pursuant to call at 10:00 a.m., in the Hearing Room, Fourth Floor, 200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, Washington, D. C., Chief Justice Earl Warren, presiding.

PRESENT:

Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman
Senator Richard B. Russell, Member
Senator John Sherman Cooper, Member
Representative Gerald R. Ford, Member
Representative Hale Boggs, Member
Allen W. Dulles, Member
John J. McCloy, Member

- - -

J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel.

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The Chairman. The Commission will be in order.

The Commission has a number of matters to consider and decide in preparation for the completion of its final report and the closing of its affairs.

This first page of the faked executive session transcript is a duplication of the court reporter's work, even to the continuation of his pagination. However, casual comparison with samples of the actual work of the official reporter shows this not to be authentic.

It was suggested by one of the Commissioners that it would be helpful to Members of the Commission if they each had a page proof of Chapter I of the proposed Report as soon as it is obtained from the Public Printer for their examination. The General Counsel was thereupon instructed to make arrangements for delivery of such page proof to each of the Commissioners promptly upon receipt of the same from the Public Printer.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that there be provided 100 copies of the Report and Hearings bound in buckram for the Commissioners to distribute as they may determine and that in addition 500 copies of just the Report be provided for such distribution.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that leather bound copies of the Report and Hearings with the names of the proposed recipients stamped on them in gold be provided for the President and such persons as he might select, for members of the Kennedy family in accordance with the direction from the White House, and for the Commissioners.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that one set of the Report and Hearings with the proposed recipient's name stamped in gold be furnished each of the staff members who have been with the Commission a substantial period of time in the work of the investigation and preparation of the Report.

If any of the Commissioners read this fake transcript so long after the Commission's life ended there was nothing he could have done. He would have seen that this and succeeding pages are selective paraphrases, not verbatim transcriptions. It was in this way that Senator Russell's objections to the Report were expunged from the record.

activities we are making to the FBI and the Secret Service and everybody else. We would like you to have that. That will give you a really good picture along with the synopsis you have as to what we think might be some further guidance in this further picture.

Is that the kind of thing, Senator Cooper, that you had in mind, would that be helpful?

Sen. Cooper. Yes, I know we have to finish the agenda but I thought after that even at this point, there have been questions raised in your own mind about --

Mr. McCloy. About direction.

Sen. Cooper. And in our own mind, I have one or two it might be well to discuss it.

Mr. McCloy. Let me ask you about this raw material business that is here. What does it consist of? Does it consist of the raw material of the autopsy? They talk about the colored photographs of the President's body -- do we have those?

Mr. Rankin. Yes, it is part of it, a small part of it.

Mr. McCloy. Are they here?

Mr. Rankin. Yes. But we don't have the minutes of the autopsy, and we asked for that because we wanted to see what doctor A said about something while he was saying it, to see whether it is supported by the conclusions in the autopsy and so forth, and then we have volumes of material in which people have purported to have said, or say to various agents certain things, they are not sworn,

This is page 35 of the Executive Session of 1/21/64. Despite later contrary pretenses, Rankin is here explicit in saying the Commission did have "the colored photographs of the President's body", the autopsy pictures. This means there was never any need for the fake sketches used as "evidence" (see p. 136). There is no evidence that "minutes" ever existed.

Mr. Rankin. Well, we could ask Mr. McCone to try to satisfy himself before he testified as to whether or not it was true for any period, and then let him testify on that basis.

Mr. McCloy. What do you think about that, Mr. Chief Justice?

The Chairman. Well, I am inclined to think that we ought to take their testimony. And there is another reason I would like to take their testimony -- because of this statement, statements both from the right and the left, that there has been a conspiracy. I would like to ask Edgar Hoover whether he has, as a result of the investigation of his Bureau, any evidence indicating that there has been a conspiracy with anybody, governmental, individual, or otherwise. And I think we also ought to ask John McCone the same thing.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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Mr. McCloy. Maybe the State Department.

The Chairman. The State Department -- and another one, by all means, I think we should try to -- we should examine in that regard, and that is the Attorney General -- because if the brother of the President --

Mr. McCloy. Examine him as a brother, rather than as Attorney General.

The Chairman. Yes, as brother. And if he was to testify that he had no information, I would think with any reasonable person it would have tremendous force.

So I would be inclined to call these witnesses for that purpose anyway, and if we do, I think that it would naturally follow that we had to ask them the other questions, too.

These excerpts are from pp. 5886-88 of the Executive Session of 4/30/64. The conspiracy question lingered, without real investigation, with shabby misuse of Bobby Kennedy planned to make him seem responsible for the Commission's failure.

By H.K.G.
Date 2/14/68

So I would be in favor of -- I think I would be in favor of doing that.

What do you think, Lee?

Mr. Rankin. I do. And I think that what you say about the Attorney General is very important, too, because I notice that the foreign press is sort of picking that up and saying -- those that are not going the Echanan way are saying, let's wait for the Warren Commission, and also saying it is hardly believable that the brother of the President would stand by if there was some conspiracy in the United States to dispose of his brother. So I think that might be the most impressive thing we had, was the testimony of those three men.

5008

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Mr. Dulles. I concur wholly.

The Chairman. You see, we have Connolly's testimony very clear on that. And I don't know -- we might consider, also, the possibility of having Sargent Shriver testify -- he is the brother-in-law of the President, he is here in government, he is familiar with what is going on. It might be. I just throw that out.

Mr. McCloy. I have doubts about that.

Mr. Dulles. He had no government position which would bring him in touch with the records and file and information on the subject.

Mr. McCloy. That would raise a question should you bring his sister, and so on.

The Chairman. Yes. Well, I just toss it out.

Mr. McCloy. But I think the case on the Attorney General is very potent.

The Chairman. All right.

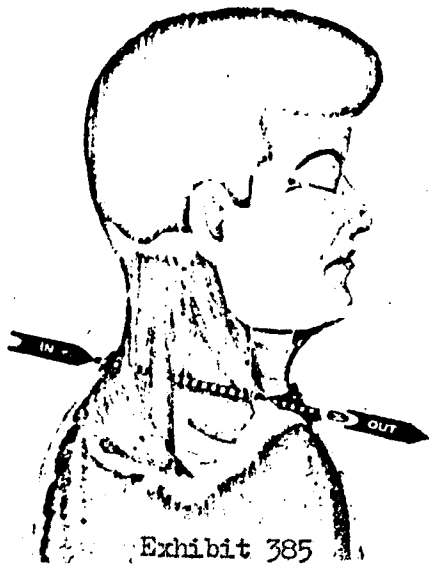


Exhibit 385

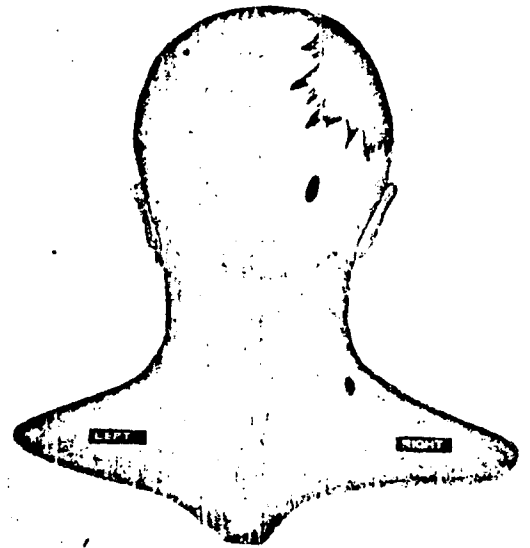
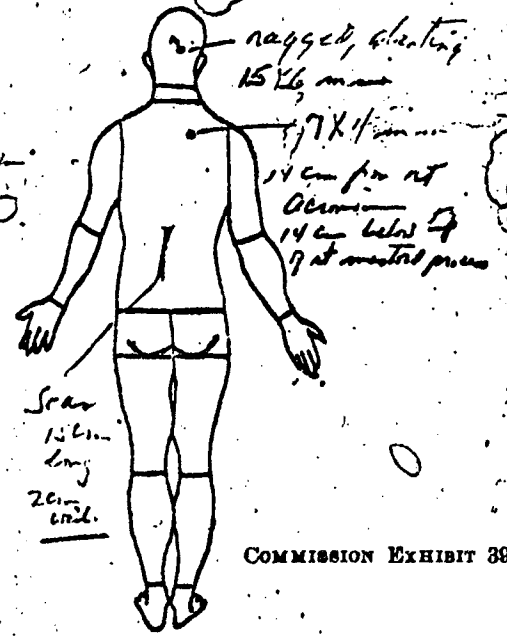
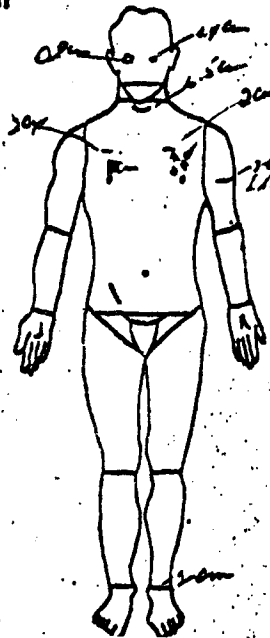


Exhibit 386

NOTES:



COMMISSION EXHIBIT 397

The transcript's location of the so-called rear nonfatal wound is consistent with its actual location, correctly noted on the autopsy body chart (Ex. 397) made during the autopsy and not altered when the autopsy report itself was later rewritten. After I published this in WHITWASH one of the pathologists claimed his chart was in error. This tended to authenticate the incorrect drawings (Exs. 385, 386), based on verbal descriptions, used as substitutes for the film the Commission did have and later falsely claimed not to have had.

I. THE ASSASSINATION

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, at approximately 12:29 p. m. (CST) on November 22, 1963. At the time, the President was en route from Love Field to the Trade Mart in Dallas to address a luncheon sponsored by several civic groups. Among those in the motorcade with the President were his wife, Vice President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, and Texas Governor John B. Connally and his wife.

A. Assassin in Building

As the motorcade was traveling through downtown Dallas on Elm Street about fifty yards west of the intersection with Houston Street (Exhibit 1), three shots rang out. Two bullets struck President Kennedy, and one wounded Governor Connally. The President, who slumped forward in the car, was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 1:00 p. m.

Immediately after President Kennedy and Governor Connally were admitted to Parkland Memorial Hospital, a bullet was found on one of the stretchers. Medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body. An examination of this bullet by the FBI Laboratory determined that it had been fired from the rifle owned by Oswald. (Exhibit 23)

These excerpts from the FBI's first definitive report, virtually all it says about the assassination despite its great volume, contradict the Commission's most basic conclusions by saying that JFK and Connally were not struck by the same bullet. It also fails to mention JFK's known wound in the front of his neck. Without this gross omission the shooting could not be attributed to any single person. In turn this is irrefutable proof that there was a conspiracy.

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SEN. RUSSELL: May I ask something?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SEN. RUSSELL: General, I see occasionally in the press articles that purport to have come from the F.B.I. as to bits of evidence and things of that kind. How much of their findings does the F.B.I. propose to release to the press before we present the findings of this Commission?

MR. KATZENBACH: Well Senator, I know the story to which you are referring - -

SEN. RUSSELL: It's been in the papers.

MR. KATZENBACH: Yes. And I know that the Director and Mr. Belmont, who is the man in charge of this particular investigation, are utterly furious at the information that got into the press. I talked with both of them on this subject. They say they are confident it could not have come from the F.B.I., and I say with candor to this committee, I can't think of anybody else it could have come from, because I don't know of anybody else that knew that information and some agent somewhere along the line, it seems to me, may very well have done it; or a clever reporter, as you are familiar, can put together a, b, and c, so it did not have to come from one source.

MR. DULLES: What reporter was that?

REP. BOGGS. Sterling Green.

MR. KATZENBACH: Yes. He is an AP reporter. He is a good reporter, he has covered the bureau a long time. And all I can say is that as far as the Department of Justice is concerned and as far as the Director is concerned, that story generated enough heat within the Federal Bureau of Investigation that I doubt that another such story will appear because it is a real peril I think in even

- 8 -

This is page 8 of the Commission's first Executive Session, held 12/5/63. Before Hoover relayed his "definitive" report he leaked it to the press to box the Commission in. Here, in deepest secrecy, Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach admits that only Hoover could have been the leaker.

been in touch with the Embassy, that we know, and of course she might just take off and go to Mexico.

CHAIRMAN: The only thing that I heard was that the Secret Service took her into protective custody so that nothing would happen to her. Now, what they have done since that time I don't know. They were afraid that something might happen to her, as happened to her husband, so they took her to some unknown place, I think.

REP. FORD: It would be another bad flavor, I think.

CHAIRMAN: You're exactly right.

MR. MC CLOY: There's another woman here that intrigues me and that is Mrs. Paine.

MR. DULLES: And her husband, too. I understand there's a report on that.

SEN. RUSSELL: There's nothing absolutely normal about any phase of it.

CHAIRMAN: Well, gentlemen, to be very frank about it, I have read that report two or three times and I have not seen anything in there yet that has not been in the press.

SEN. RUSSELL: I couldn't agree with that more. I have read it through once very carefully, and I went through it again at places I had marked, and practically everything in there has come out in the press at one time or another, a bit here and a bit there.

MR. DULLES: Some of the details of the annexes are not in the press.

SEN. RUSSELL: That's true.

MR. DULLES: I wish we could get from the FBI more readable annexes. There are three, four, or five annexes there and I think they ought to assume the responsibility of writing them

These are pages 11 and 12 of the Executive Session of 12/16/63. Warren says that all the substance of the FBI Report was leaked and reported. The Commission called Marina Oswald's captivity "protective custody". It actually meant she had access to no one but federal officials and they leaned on her, making her change her story.

so we can read them.

REP. FORD: I agree with you. I've had a terrible time trying to read some of the notes of Oswald and I think that, as a convenience to us, it would be very helpful if it was typewritten up so that it would be very readable.

MR. DULLES: His handwriting is very hard to decipher. They do a better job of deciphering the handwriting than we do.

MR. MC CLOY: I think that you've got to bear in mind that they were under pressure to get this to us, and this only purports to be a summary. The grammar is bad and you can see they did not polish it all up. It does leave you some loopholes in this thing but I think you have to realize they put this thing together very fast.

REP. BOGGS: There's nothing in there about Governor Connally.

CHAIRMAN: No.

SEN. COOPER: And whether or not they found any bullets in him.

MR. MC CLOY: This bullet business leaves me confused.

CHAIRMAN: It's totally inconclusive.

SEN. RUSSELL: They couldn't find where one bullet came out that struck the President and yet they found a bullet in the stretcher.

MR. MC CLOY: I think you ought to have the autopsy documents.

CHAIRMAN: By all means we ought to have the medical reports. We ought to have them as part of this document here because they might play a very important part in it.

MR. MC CLOY: I understand there are two. I may be wrong about this, but there's a report in Dallas by the surgeons who

Here the Commissioners discuss their awareness of the deficiencies of this "definitive" FBI Report. Despite the language of their Report, they never did resolve these doubts. They also never obtained all the medical evidence.

767

CD-320

ORIGIN Field	OFFICE Houston, Texas	FILE NO. CO-2-34,030
TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Closed - Houston (this matter)	TITLE OR CAPTION Assassination of President Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Houston, Texas	PERIOD COVERED 12/16-17/63	Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE BY SAIC Lane Dertram		

92K
2/2/64

DETAILS SYNOPSIS

Interview with Houston Post reporter Alonso H. Hudkins III. He states Oswald reported to be on FBI payroll as an informant, and other information.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On December 16, Alonso H. Hudkins, reporter, Houston Post, called the office and advised that he was of the opinion that Jack Rubenstein's roommate, George Senator, could possibly have some connection with the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald. He did not appear to have any particular reason for making this suggestion other than when reinterviewed on December 17 he stated that Ruby had a brother and a nephew who formerly worked for Jimmy Hoffa in Detroit, Michigan and he stated it was a "wild guess" that the Hoffa organization could be behind the assassination.

On December 17, Mr. Hudkins advised that he had just returned from a weekend in Dallas, during which time he talked to Allen Sweatt, Chief Criminal Division, Sheriff's Office, Dallas; Chief Sweatt mentioned that it was his opinion that Lee Harvey Oswald was being paid \$200 a month by the FBI as an informant in connection with their subversive investigations. He furnished the alleged informant number assigned to Oswald by the FBI as "S172".

Hudkins stated it is significant to him that attorney ^{Melvin} Milton L. Belli of San Francisco, attorney representing Jack Rubenstein, was listed as an east coast associate on stationery of attorney ^{Att} Ept who was the first attorney Lee Harvey Oswald asked to represent him.

He states that Chief Deputy Sheriff Allen Sweatt has copies of this stationery. Sweatt censors all of Ruby's mail.

DISTRIBUTION Chief ✓ Dallas Houston LB/rtc	COPIES Orig & 1 2-cc 1-cc	REPORT MADE BY SPECIAL AGENT	DATE
		APPROVED <i>James Sullivan</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 1/3/64

UNDEVELOPED LEADS CO-2-34,030 (CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER) U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-61800-1
 Page 2

The Dallas office is requested to interview Chief Allen Sweatt, Dallas Sheriff's office, relative to the above. However, it is suggested that this interview be conducted in such a manner that the identity of reporter Hudkins not be identified as he considers Deputy Sweatt as a valuable source of information.

It is requested that the Houston office be furnished a copy of the Dallas report to help in evaluating the information furnished by Hudkins.

Date 12/10/63

Mr. JOSEPH GOULDEN, news reporter, "Philadelphia Inquirer," Philadelphia, Pa., advised that prior to coming to work for the "Inquirer" in 1961 for three years he had been a reporter for the "Dallas News" in Dallas, Texas, covering the Sheriff's Office and Police Department in Dallas. He also advised he was the only reporter from the "Philadelphia Inquirer" who was in Dallas during or subsequent to the assassination of President Kennedy. He stated that he was in Dallas from about 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 3, 1963, until the evening of December 7, 1963.

He said that as a result of having worked for the newspaper in Dallas, he had many contacts in law enforcement and the news media in that city.

Mr. GOULDEN advised that in a news article in the December 8, 1963 "Philadelphia Inquirer," datelined December 7, Dallas, Texas, which he had written, he had pointed out that LEE HARVEY OSWALD at one time had been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to become an informant. He said he had obtained this information from a law enforcement officer in Dallas whom he declined to identify.

Mr. GOULDEN advised that in the same article he had made reference to the fact that witnesses had seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the Texas School Book Depository Building 15 minutes before the shots were fired at the President. He stated he had received this information from the Dallas Sheriff's Office.

Mr. GOULDEN stated he would attempt to contact the law enforcement officer in Dallas whom he declined to identify, and obtain permission to give his name to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Late in the evening, Mr. GOULDEN telephonically advised that he had been unable to contact the officer in Dallas.

On 12/9/63 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 105-9858
by SA JOHN R. WINNEBERG/jp Date dictated 12/10/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

-2*-

Here and on the preceding and following pages are the suppressed reports of the superficial investigations of the allegations that Oswald had been a federal agent. More than a month later the Commission claimed not to have them.

Date 12/16/63

(1)

JOSEPH GOULDEN, Reporter, "Philadelphia Inquirer," telephonically advised that he had contacted the unidentified law enforcement officer in Dallas, Texas, over the week end by telephone, who had previously told GOULDEN in Dallas that JACK LEON RUBY had gained entrance to the basement of the Dallas Police Department by posing as a TV cameraman's helper on the day that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was shot and who had also told him that LEE HARVEY OSWALD at one time had been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to become an informant. GOULDEN declined to identify the law enforcement officer after having talked to him on the telephone. He did say, however, that the officer told him that the matter was being "handled through proper channels." GOULDEN said he did not question the officer further as to what these channels were.

On 12/16/63 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-767
 by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG/JGR/jp Date dictated 12/16/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

-2-

1
 RFG/atd

Other
 Involved or interviewed

DL 100-10461

Under date of December 31, 1963, the Houston Office advised that LONNIE HUDKINS, reporter for the Houston Post Newspaper at Houston, Texas, had advised SA JAMES W. FISSELL on December 31, 1963, that in his conversations with RUTH PAINE, the socially prominent Ft. Worth woman referred to as LINDA ROSENTHAL who lives in the 4800 Block of Cram Street, Ft. Worth, Texas.

HUDKINS advised that Mrs. ROSENTHAL had employed Mrs. OSWALD in September and October 1962, and that ROSENTHAL had previously been interviewed by the FBI.

HUDKINS concluded by stating he was on a "fishing expedition" and was attempting to determine if LEE HARVEY OSWALD had been a "stool pigeon" for some government agency such as CIA or the FBI.

CR 385

Here as elsewhere the original documents are needlessly of poor quality.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JOHN R. WINEBERG
Date: February 12, 1964
Field Office File #: 105-9958
Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Office: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania
Bureau File #: 105-82555

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis: JOSEPH GOULDEN, Reporter, "Philadelphia Inquirer" Newspaper, advised on 2/11/64 LONNIE HUDKINS, Houston news reporter, is business and social acquaintance, both of them having worked in news media, Dallas, Texas, in past. HUDKINS in Philadelphia covering National Council of Churches Convention early 12/63, which was before GOULDEN went to Dallas to write assassination story. GOULDEN aware of assassination matter only from what he learned in Philadelphia from news media and recalls no conversation with HUDKINS in Philadelphia in which GOULDEN said OSWALD was FBI informant.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

In this one-paragraph summary of a two-paragraph report the FBI is building statistics, not evidence. Subtly, it is an argument, not an investigation, the purpose of which is to make the experienced and dependable reporter Goulden seem undependable and to be retelling second-hand information.

Date February 12, 1964

JOSEPH GOULDEN, Reporter, "Philadelphia Inquirer," advised that he and LONNIE HUDKINS, religion reporter for "Houston Post," several years ago both covered the courthouse beat in Dallas and as a result became associated in their work and also socially. HUDKINS was in Philadelphia in early December 1963 covering the Convention of the National Council of Churches. While here, HUDKINS was at the GOULDEN residence for dinner and a social evening. This conversation between GOULDEN and HUDKINS occurred prior to the time that GOULDEN went to Dallas, Texas, to write a story for the "Inquirer" regarding the assassination of President KENNEDY. Up to this time, GOULDEN had no direct, first-hand knowledge of the assassination and was aware of the assassination only from news media in Philadelphia.

HUDKINS had covered the assassination story in Dallas for his paper, the "Houston Post," and they did discuss the assassination. GOULDEN said he did not recall that they discussed the possibility of OSWALD's having been an informant of the FBI; however, they did discuss many phases of the case. He also pointed out that anything he (GOULDEN) might have said about the matter would have been based on what he had heard or read in Philadelphia.

On 2/11/64 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 105-9958
 by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG /dfb Date dictated 2/12/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

-2*-

From this argumentative report one would never suspect that Goulden's story was not written until after he was in Dallas. See p.139. He told me he made personal inquiry in Dallas, so there is no doubt he also told the FBI, whose reports he had never seen. With the FBI investigating itself, what else should be expected?

FULBRIGHT, CROOKER, FREEMAN, BATES & JAWORSKI

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BANK OF THE SOUTHWEST BUILDING
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS 77002

May 1, 1964

cc: Honorable Waggoner Carr
Honorable Robert G. Storey

C

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Lee:

O

Upon my return to Houston I advised Waggoner Carr of our conversation, and then I talked with J. P. Hobby, Jr., executive vice president and executive editor of the Houston Post, yesterday for the purpose of discussing with him the obtaining of an affidavit from Lonnie Hudkins, or in the alternative having him appear before the Commission in line with our discussion. Hobby informs me that Hudkins left the employ of the Houston Post over a month ago. He does not know where he is now employed; in fact he does not even know whether he is in Houston. He has offered, however, to locate him if you so desire.

P

Following my conversation with him I turned to my file to reread the story in question. Inasmuch as you have the testimony of the FBI agents as well as that of Marguerite Oswald, I am wondering if it is really worth your effort to follow up on Hudkins.

Y

Hudkins' story does not say that Oswald was an informant. He simply raises the question based on the speculation of others, including that of Bill Alexander, assistant to Henry Wade, who pointed out that Oswald had Hobby's telephone and car license numbers, and on Mrs. Paine's statements as to the interviews the agents had with her.

I should add that Bill Hobby volunteered to carry a story in the Houston Post to the effect that Oswald was not in the employ of any federal government agency if the testimony by competent federal authorities to the Commission so showed. Inasmuch as this would involve disclosing testimony given before the Commission, I doubt that you would want to avail yourself of his

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
May 3, 1964
Page 2

CONFIDENTIAL

offer. I did not undertake to discuss this offer with him, simply stating that I would convey it to you.

Please let me know whether you want to pursue the matter further; and if so, I shall be glad to follow whatever course you suggest.

With every good wish and kindest regards, I am

LJ:bs
Enclosure

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed By
Leon Jaworski

Leon Jaworski

P.S. Not knowing whether you have a complete copy available, I am sending you Xerox copy of the Hudkins' article which appeared in the Houston Post on Wednesday, January 1, 1964.

L.J.

When Leon Jaworski became Special Watergate Prosecutor in 1973 he was and remained a director of the M. D. Anderson Fund, a CIA front, despite the CIA's involvement in the scandals. Hobby also had a CIA foundation front. Both were exposed in 1967. Rather than investigating, as counsel for the Texas Court of Inquiry, Jaworski offered a formula for getting the CIA and the FBI off the hook. He also supplied the Commission with the following copy of Hudkins' story.

Oswald Rumored As Informant for U.S.

Federal Agent Approached Son, Mother Quoted as Saying

By LONNIE HUDKINS, Post Staff Correspondent

DALLAS — Was Lee Harvey Oswald a stool pigeon for a federal government agency? That's the question being asked by many people in responsible positions here.

If the answer is "yes," then the 24-year-old accused as the slayer of President Kennedy pulled one of the biggest and certainly the most embarrassing double-crosses in the nation's history.

AND IF THE answer is "no," it will go down as just another one of the fantastic rumors floating around in official and unofficial circles in Dallas.

Here are some of the facts and some of the opinions and the sources from which they came.

Oswald, who was later shot to death by night club operator Jack Ruby, did know of Joe Hosty, the FBI agent who handles subversive matters in the Dallas FBI office.

"He had Hosty's home phone, office phone and car license number," said Bill Alexander, assistant district attorney to Henry Wade and one of the state's most able prosecutors.

ALEXANDER was one of the men who got a chance to listen in on the grilling of Oswald on Nov. 22, the day the President was killed, and Nov. 23, the day before Oswald's life also came to an end.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Oswald, had a terse "no comment" when asked if her son had told her he was or had at least been asked to be an informant in antirsubversive work. She did not deny it.

However, she was quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer as saying her son had been approached by a government agent to be an informant and then had informed her about it.

INASMUCH AS she had no direct contact with her son after September of 1962, the contact, if made, would have been before she went to work for a Fort Worth matron in the same month and indicated to her em-

See OSWALD on Page 3

OSWALD SPECULATION

Continued From Page 1
ployer that "Lee was doing important work."

The social matron said she got the impression from Mrs. Oswald, a practical nurse, that Lee Oswald was doing some sort of work for the federal government. She described Mrs. Oswald as "a very good nurse."

One thing the FBI cannot brush aside is the fact its agents knew Oswald was in Dallas before the slaying of President Kennedy and the wounding of Gov. John Connally.

"THEY (MEANING the FBI) asked me where he (Oswald) worked and I told them," said Mrs. Ruth Paine, the Irving housewife with whom Oswald's Russian-born wife and two children made their home in Irving, a Dallas County suburban town.

Mrs. Paine recalled that FBI agents came to her home on two occasions to inform Oswald's wife that it was the FBI's custom, or policy, to contact immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain after they had been in this country for a year and that they (the immigrants) could, if they wanted to do so, disclose any pressure that might be on them from relatives or governments left behind.

The Irving housewife, a Quaker who speaks Russian, recalled that the FBI's first visit was "in late September or early October" of this year and that the agents returned a week later.

SHE SAID she told them neither she nor Oswald's wife knew where Oswald was living (in an Oak Cliff boarding house) but did tell them where he was working, at the Texas Book Depository (from which rifle bullets were fired into President Kennedy and Gov. Connally during a motorcade).

Reporters on hand to interview Police Chief Jesse Curry on Nov. 22 recall that he first revealed that the FBI knew that Oswald was in Dallas but had not given his name to check to police or other law enforcement agencies involved in the President's protection.

Chief Curry later retracted the statement.

But informed sources in Dallas tell of seeing a report for-

warded to the commission investigating President Kennedy's death that states that "at 2:30 PM Friday, Nov. 22," an FBI agent told Dallas police that the FBI knew of Oswald and had conducted some surveillance of him.

IF THIS IS true, veteran police and sheriff's investigators ask, their watch on Oswald must not have been too good or they would have known about his rifle, reportedly the one used to kill the President and wound Connally, and his pistol, reportedly the one used to slay Policeman J. D. Tippit, and would have noticed the possible significance of his working in a building on the route of the motorcade.

It is this point that has led to speculation by police and sheriff's deputies in Dallas that Oswald might have been an informant because, as one put it, "you just wouldn't think to check out one of your own stoolies."

And it should also be pointed out that most of the people involved in the initial investigation of the case are reluctant to say much now that the case's subsequent developments are now in the hands of federal investigation.

BUT DISTRICT Atty Henry Wade, a former FBI agent himself and therefore a man who would know how such an agency would operate, does not discount the possibility that Oswald may have been an informant.

"It may be true," he said, "but I don't think it will ever be made public if it is."

Another point of confusion involves Oswald's trip to Mexico City Sept 26 to Oct 3. Reliable sources in Dallas say he passed through Houston on Sept 26 en route to Mexico. One agency in Washington has "leaked" that Oswald was accompanied by two women and a man. But this has been discounted by other investigators who say "he went alone" to Mexico although he talked to people on the bus which might have left the impression he was with them.

THE CIA HAS reportedly stated that he tried to get a visa at the Cuban Embassy in

Mexico City. This brings the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) into the picture. If an informant for the CIA ever gets involved in anything, it's virtually impossible for it to ever come to light, according to people who have been in and out of the business of playing the international game of spying.

Meanwhile, it is generally agreed upon, both in Dallas and Washington, that Oswald, whatever he did, acted on his own and had no help nor was part of any conspiracy.

It is also conceded that Ruby had no connection with Oswald other than shooting him in the basement of the police station on the Sunday morning of Nov 24 as millions watched on television.

MRS PAINE, the woman with whom Oswald's wife made her home, has cleared up several other points to the best of her ability.

She discounts reports that the widow's father is a colonel in Soviet military intelligence on duty in the Minsk region of Russia.

"She (Mrs Oswald) told me her father died when she was a little girl and that she did not remember him. She said her mother remarried and that her mother and stepfather lived in Leningrad," explained Mrs Paine.

MRS PAINE said it was not hard for her to understand how Oswald could have accumulated a little money (\$150 that was reportedly found in Oswald's possessions) or that he had an estimated \$3,500 income during the 14 months after he had returned from Russia.

"He (Oswald) did not give his wife much money and they lived very frugally," Mrs Paine said.

Oswald's mother said, "As far as I know, she doesn't have a father living."

But a big question in the minds of Dallas and some federal lawmen—from the newest beat patrolmen to those in top position—is if the government—any agency—knew about Oswald and had watched, why wasn't his name on the list of people for Dallas police to check before the President arrived?

And if Oswald was a government informant and therefore ignored, why?


 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

 GA 1
 FBI

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

January 27, 1964

 See Oswald -
 Pat Russian
 2

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

We have been advised that authorities of the State of Texas, including District Attorney Henry Wade and his assistant, William Alexander, appeared before the Commission concerning the article which appeared in "The Nation" magazine in which it is alleged that Lee Harvey Oswald was an informant of the FBI.

We have previously made available to the Commission full information concerning our contacts with Oswald. So that there may be no doubt as to our relations, here are the facts:

Our first interview of Lee Harvey Oswald took place June 26, 1962, at Fort Worth, Texas, shortly after Oswald returned from Russia. This interview was conducted by Special Agents B. Tom Carter and John W. Fain and was for the purpose of ascertaining whether Oswald had been given any Soviet intelligence assignments in this country. Oswald was requested to advise this Bureau in the event he was contacted in this country by an individual under suspicious circumstances suggesting that it was a Soviet intelligence approach. Oswald agreed to do so. Results of this interview are set out in the report of Special Agent John W. Fain dated July 10, 1962, at Dallas, Texas, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - R," copies of which have been furnished to the Commission.

In their session of the very day Hoover wrote this letter the Commissioners expressed doubt about the alleged purposes of these interviews or that the FBI reports on them were complete. (T176)

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Our next interview of Oswald took place on August 16, 1962, at Fort Worth, Texas. This interview was conducted by Special Agents Arnold J. Brown and John W. Fain and it was for the purpose of again alerting Oswald to the possibility that the Soviet intelligence service might, at any time attempt to use him or obtain information through him. Oswald stated he could see no reason why the Soviets would desire to contact him; however, he promised his cooperation in reporting to the FBI any information coming to his attention in this regard. Results of this interview are set out in the report of Special Agent John W. Fain dated August 30, 1962, at Dallas, Texas, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - R," copies of which have been furnished to the Commission.

Our next interview of Oswald took place on August 10, 1963, at the First District Station, New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans, Louisiana, at his request. During such interview Oswald furnished details concerning his arrest by the New Orleans Police Department on August 9, 1963, on a charge of disturbing the peace by creating a scene. He also furnished data concerning his background and activities in regard to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Results of this interview are set out in the report of Special Agent Milton R. Kaack dated October 31, 1963, at New Orleans, Louisiana, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald, Internal Security - R - Cuba," copies of which have been furnished to the Commission.

The above interviews are the extent of our contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We did not interview Oswald in Dallas, Texas, or in Irving, Texas, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

In regard to the data in "The Nation" article which alleges that Oswald had Agent Hosty's home phone and office phone numbers and car license number in his possession, you are advised that Special Agent James P. Hosty's name, office telephone number and automobile

- 2 -

To obtain Oswald's agreement to report any Soviet approaches, an utter irrationality, would have required minutes only. It cannot and does not explain the 8/16/62 interview.

Hoover does not say so, but two agents interviewed Oswald at Oswald's request in the New Orleans Police Station. Only one, John L. Quigley, was a Commission witness. (44431ff.) Kaack was not a witness. As I pointed out in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, the FBI also failed to provide the Commission with even a pro forma affidavit from him. If this indeed represents "the extent of our contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald" it cannot and does not cover their nature and content.