

Rockefeller Report - delay in (if ever, it says) releasing HW 6/6/75

This evening's news is that although Rocky gave Ford the report, Ford has not decided when or if to release it.

Three immediate consequences come to mind:

It buys time for the CIA et al;

It shifts the conflict with the Congress (and gives Nedzi time;

It spares the nuts and self-seekers among assassination buffs.

Recap: there were steady leaks pretty much blaming the Kennedys and presidents in general for the CIA's vices, like assassinations, limited pretty much to Castro and in no case adding anything to what had been reported, during the recent months and over the years.

Suddenly these leaks stopped. About entirely, with perhaps close to two weeks to scheduled release

Then Rocky, Dillion and others opened by ~~defending~~ the CIA, saying its vices were few and minor, nothing massive. ~~Then nothing was said until Nedzi came back~~ Church came back firmly, after which Rocky claimed first misquotation. Then nothing from Commission on assassinations (previous note) with Church again pointed and firm. Not a peep from any other Church committee members, signifying no disagreement. GOPs talking otherwise would cause divisiveness, a charge they can hold back now and if they feel the need, use themselves.

The Report is printed and bound. TV pix showed printed paperback cover. Thick enough to be bound page proofs, too thick to be the Report unless it is heavy with appendix. (I had argued with Lardner, who said not typeset and I said had to be.)

There is no chance this gang could issue any report that would not become an immediate target of criticism. They avoid this, temporarily. This coincides with Nedzi's need if he is to overcome strong efforts to kick him out as conflict of interest ridden from having withheld the significant for a year. Nedzi's interest coincides with CIA's (Ford/Rocky's) need for him to remain if possible.

It also eliminates the need for members of the Senate committee (especially) to make adverse comment. Behind the scenes efforts thus remain possible as they would be less likely to be with a defective report.

If it should be withheld indefinitely and there should later be a more positive Senate report, the obvious explanation is that the Senate had more time.

If it is long withheld it also means that there is no chance of giving the Senate fact or inspiration.

The purposes of the leaks are accomplished in the press. There is little chance on undoing this. There received extensive and poisonous attention. Aside from serving CIA's interest these were part of Ford's coming campaign. Esp. as anti-Kennedy.

If the JFK assassination attack on the nuts is withheld, it can be used later, at any time until too late. It can be effective during deliberations.

Delay in releasing can serve to give time to decide whether the liability of a too-weak report can be overcome and for the means to be created.

Another possibility is that the new story on the CIA getting all the other domestic files via computer feed made it dangerous to issue a report without this in it because it would, especially coming so close to Rowan's stories, have underscored the unserious purposes of this Commission.