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Dear John,

After writing you early this morning I thought about the long article I sent Richard some time ago and wrote a new lead for it. This ~~full~~, of course, require a few small changes in what I wrote. I send it to give you an idea of what the article says.

~~Russell~~ Russell forced an executive session of the Commission after the report was already set in type, less than a week before it was handed to President Johnson.

There was to have been a court reporter there. All those se executive sessions were to be typed and preserved for history. Russell believed there was a court reporter there. But J. Lee Rankin, the man who ran the Commission as its general counsel saw to it that the court reporter was not there. He substituted a ~~se~~ Commission stenographer who pretended she ~~was~~ ^{was} the court reporter. And even whatever she noted in shorthand no longer exists. If she wrote anything other than ~~de~~ doodles.

I have the Commission's court-reporting records and I have those of the court-reporting firm, the same firm I'd worked with in the 1930s as a Senate editor. There was no court reporter present.

This chicanery is not without Rankin/Commission precedent. The Commission, when Russell was not present at its January 22, 1964 executive session, decided to not have that transcript prepared, to have that record destroyed. This was contrary to its rules ^{bit} on the motion of the former CIA director, Member Allen Dulles, the destruction of that transcript was decided upon.

(They overlooked the stenotypist's tape and when I was able to pinpoint where it was hidden, under the Freedom of Information Act, I was able to compel its transcription for me. Their embarrassing confession was of their fear ^{of} the FBI and their admission that the FBI was in effect blackmailing ^{them} ~~it~~ into ^{INT} agree with the FBI's preconceptions of the crime, its "solution" as the FBI wanted believed. They were supposedly discussing reports that Oswald had worked for the FBI. That was before the first Commission hearing.)

Along with what I have published and is little known, it would not be difficult to expand this into a small book, with facsimile reproduction, if desired, of ~~the~~ what had been classified "Top Secret.")

So Richard will not have to dig through what I sent him I'll enclose some of the documentation for this proposed article. I also enclose the unique credentials the FBI gave me, perhaps ~~the~~ most original defense against proof of its perjury. And corrupt as the court can be, they got away with it! But they did tell that court that I know more about the JFK assassination than anyone working for the FBI! Highlighted on the third page. The first identifies the lawsuit and me as the plaintiff, the second explains the situation and the third has their language highlighted.

I do think there should be a magazine willing to consider this now. It is all documented fact, no fancy theories in it, and it is all new documentation. *Add important.*

As you will ~~see~~ see, the also highly respected Republican Senator from Kentucky who was a Commission member, John Sherman Cooper, was in complete agreement with Russell, as he says. Russell told me that to a degree the late Hale Boggs, conservative Democrat from Louisiana, also did. (Coker Roberts' father.)

It is really shocking stuff.

I could add a third such incident, where there was to have been a court reporter for such a session and there wasn't. That also was on Oswald as a reported FBI ~~agent~~ source of some sort, as supposedly working for it. The actual number attributed to Oswald at that session and suppressed is a CIA number.

It was at this point that you called. After we spoke I phoned two who are known to Richard and David, Jim Lesar and his assistant at the Assassination Archive and Research Center, Jonathan Meyers. Meyers will have phoned you or is to write you with some additional suggestions for possible reviews in small publications. They turn out a newsletter.

I should have included on the previous page that to substitute for the stenographic transcript for the executive session at which Russell said what I enclose, from his files, Rankin phoned one up. I have to, too. That is the first thing I gave Russell and he said immediately that it was a fake.

I've enclosed a copy of all the documents with my copy of the article. They may not all indicate their importance to you but they have importance, real importance.

What also is rare in this is that my work had the approval of a member of the Commission in my criticism of it and its Report. I think that is without precedent. Russell's assistant put it correctly, in fact I agreed with Russell!

I do not know whether C & G have anyone who deals with the media or with magazines but I do think that there are some that might welcome this. However, my knowledge of them is not current. Like the Atlantic, Harper's, the NY Review, Rolling Stone, etc. And if we are lucky enough for them to have a real interest, it can make a series of what is new and important, perhaps in all, not just some respects unprecedented in our history. And that could be expanded into a small book and an exciting one, with all sorts of sensational documents that from my own experience, people really go for in books. I hope someone up there will give some thought to what this corruption really is and means. Just to begin with, corrupting an official transcript to suppress what two Commission Members, both United States Senators, said and believe - and would not believe - and that about the assassination of a President? And all thoroughly documented!

Please excuse the haste and my typing, which cannot be any better. Not only that I was 81 yesterday. I have to keep my legs up when I type and I write holding a clipboard in my left hand and the pen in my right. Sorry it can't be much better. Best,
Harold

This also should be a fine stage-setter for the book John Newman is doing for you. I have told him how to replace the document that gives the correct, CIA-type number for Oswald I mention above and he has done that. He has the document a copy of which, along with other info. on Oswald, was stolen from me.

Those at that other suppressed session were from the Texas Court of Inquiry into the JFK assassination. I interviewed two of them, Dear Robert Storey of the SMU law school and Henry Wade, then Dallas district attorney and still my friend. They both told me they saw what they took to be a court reporter there. The other one with them I did not try to see, knowing what I did about him. ^{On} The Watergate, where he was the special prosecutor, he covered up as much as he could. I knew he had tried to put pressure on the source of that number who for years has been my friend but will not tell me his source. The pressure was to get my friend to retract. Or be fired from the paper for which he had covered Dallas. And Jaworski is regarded as a national hero. I have the letter he wrote that publisher.

When I get some books I'll send one to Cokey Roberts, in confidence and asking nothing of her.

H

" SENATOR RUSSELL DISSENTS"

"Just put a li'l ol' footnote in sayin' 'Senator Russell ~~dis~~ dissents'," the respecta~~d~~
see senator from Georgia, leader of southern conservatives, said with a smile as he
turned toward me.

Then he chuckled a little as he recall and told me about the consternation he
had just caused Earl Warren, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and then chairman
of the Presidential commission of which Russell ~~was a member~~ had been a member.

We were walking down the marble halls of then old Senate office building toward the
elevator as I walk^{with} ~~him~~ over the the ^{building.} Capitol. He was headed for that early June, 1967
Session's beginning.

I knew that building very well. I'd worked there in 1936-9 and, not because of my
importance, which did not exist, but because of my work had my own office in it. ^{Room 103.} Under
the stairs ^{at} on the corner closest to the Supreme Court building.

Russell was telling me of his absolute refusal to agree with the single-bullet
theory that is the basis of that Commission's report on the assassination of President
John F. Kennedy. I had put into his hands what would seem to be impossible and he had
trouble believing, that the record he had made of his refusal to agree to that theory -
and it should be understood that the Warren Report itself is no more than a ~~an~~
theory - had been wiped out - did not exist in that Commission's records.

Russell ~~asked~~ asked me to get positive proof for him, in a letter from the Archi-
vist of the United States. I did. Russell thereafter refused to speak to President Lyndon
B. Johnson as long as they lived, close as their political friendship had been for most
of their political careers.

And he encouraged my work to disprove ~~this~~ his own Commission's conclusions as long
as he lived. He knew in 1967 he was in terminal illness. Before he died he ^{wrote} me
several times thanking me for the additional information I sent him and regretting that
his health and ~~his~~ his many Senate responsibilities prevented his helping me in my work .

This incredible highest-level corruption is, I hope without precedent in our history.

This and so much more like it is thoroughly documented and I have those documents.
This also is an accurate reflection of the official invest^{igat}ion of President Kennedy's
assassination.