

April 14, 1964

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

Dear Lee:

In order for me to keep fully abreast of the developments before the Commission I would like to have copies of the various depositions which have been taken by the staff. Will you please have such copies delivered to my office.

As I have listened to the witnesses, read the reports, and sought to evaluate the material before the Commission, I have been impressed with a need to verify or double check certain statements in the testimony to the maximum degree possible. To accomplish this I strongly suggest the use of polygraph tests with certain key witnesses. By this suggestion I do not mean to impugn the reliability or veracity of any witness. Perhaps we can impress upon those witnesses that the Commission must leave no stone unturned in its search for the truth and on this basis urge that the individual volunteer for a polygraph test.

I believe there is a particular need for polygraph use in the case of Marina Oswald when she is again a witness. A polygraph test for her on a voluntary basis would go a long way in satisfying the public's interest in this whole matter.

I would recommend the polygraph be used only on a limited basis where there appears from the record certain inconsistencies or a failure to be completely frank.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

GRF:rl

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