

House assassinations committee - conversation with Martin Waldron 11/19/76 HW

He called chiefly to ask if I think he should get assigned to cover the committee. I told him not now but in retrospect think this was wrong. He is to call back.

He has the staff hired to date and notes it includes not a single investigator.

Carol Amate, executive assistant \$16,000
Rick Feeney, administrator, \$25,000
Donovan Gay, chief researcher, \$24,000
Jacqueline Hess, assistant researcher, \$20,000
Billie Gay Larson, secretary, \$13,000
Ralph Locke, researcher, \$13,000
Vivian McPherson, executive assistant, \$14,000
Rebecca Wheeler Martin, chief clerk, \$20,000
Betty Orr, researcher, \$9,000 Patricia
Johanna Smith, document clerk, \$8,000
Jean Thornell, special assistant \$25,000 ("sounds like pussy"-Mo.)
Attorneys and investigators heading-
Jeremy Akers staff counsel \$20,000 (all not otherwise indicated staff counsel)
Jonathan Blackmer \$15,000
Kenneth Brooten \$34,000
Steven J. Fallis deputy chief counsel, \$36,000 coming 12/1
Joseph Kiel, \$30,000
Belford Lawson \$20,000 12/1
Robert Lehner, deputy chief counsel (ing) \$36,000 12/1
Sari Mordane law assistant \$15,000
Robert Ozer \$30,000
Richard Sprague acting chief counsel and director \$39,600
Robert Tannenbaum deputy chief counsel (JFK) \$36,000 (JFK)

He has spoken to Gonzalez and Dodd. They had planned for closed sessions on Gonzalez' motion but Dodd and others made long speeches on everything in public. Then Gonzalez, when they were open, asked Ozer if they have evidence records were destroyed, Ozer said yes, and they wanted closed sessions. They met through mid-Wednesday.

Dodd told Me they have enough to break the King case now. He laughed and said he had done enough work to know that there are many attractive ~~xxxxxx~~ leads that pan out to nothing and had followed some, had been coaned by experts, and had doubts. So Dodd changed his formulation to that it might be possible. He began certain. They think that people connected with the government were connected with the crime, he says.

Sprague said we can break the King case because the man who did it is still alive. They dismissed the window sill as being of no importance. (Me laughed.)

He says that Sprague is going to present murder cases to the committee and that it thinks it is going to be in a movie with the script.

He says Lane is running the committee and that Gonzalez is his source. Lane is doing this through Sprague, Gonzalez says. (Ozer was uptight, openly hostile when I warned them about Lane and his improvisations on the ivory, so much so that after he left Donovan Gay felt called upon to apologize for him saying he was only being devil's advocate.)

In general Me thinks they are crazy and going to fail as they are going, as I gather. He did not say this. He did say they should hire me and I explained why I disqualified myself in advance. He said that Gonzalez told the Rules committee they were going to use me somehow.

He did not tell me but he was in Washington. I phoned back to tell him I think he should be assigned to that story because he is the only reporter who will do the right kind of honest job. We discussed more. He is to call me back after lunch.