

JFK Routing Slip

NO. 011097

DATE 01/29/69

Document I.D. INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

INDEX

McClellan, John
William Commission
Rankin, J. Lee
 FBI
 CIA
 LHO
Ruby, Jack
 OC

Ewing
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 Robert Blakey
 Gary Cornwell
 Kenneth Klein
 Charlie Mathews
 Jim Wolf
 Tiny Hutton
 Jackie Hess
 Cliff Fenton
MIKE EWING
 Team #1
 Team #2
 Team #3
 Team #4
 Team #5

Special Instructions:

Form #2

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Special Instructions:

Form #2

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name John J. McCloy Date 8/22/78 Time 3:50
Address N.Y. law firm Place (By phone) 212-4222660

Interview:

011097

John J. McCloy, the former diplomat and member of the Warren Commission was interviewed by phone on August 22, 1978. Mr. McCloy stated that he was aware that the Committee's public hearings were coming up soon. When asked if he would like the opportunity to appear in such a session, McCloy stated that "I would not be anxious to appear. Unless you think it really necessary." McCloy stated that he thought "Mr. Rankin would be your best witness. I have great respect for him."

Mr. McCloy stated that he first heard of his potential appointment as a member of the Warren Commission "a few days before the announcement," when President Johnson called him to "tell me I was going on. Just like that."

In regard to the central conclusions of the Warren Commission, McCloy stated that "On the fundamentals, I believe it is all thoroughly established. I have no inner doubts. I believe the essence of the thing was proven to a hilt on Oswald, and I have no doubts."

Mr. McCloy stated that "while the Commission had enough time to reach our conclusions, I was greatly disturbed by the rushed composition and writing of the Report." McCloy stated that he was and is convinced that "there was outside pressure coming" to rush the completion of the Report. McCloy stated that his belief is that "this pressure was put on by Warren. And the pressure from Warren was due to pressure from the White House. I can't prove it, but I was there."

McCloy further stated that "I've always tried to read all the books and critiques. And I remember "Rush To Judgment." And though I've always believed there was no rush to judgment, I do know there was a rush to print." McCloy stated that at one point, which he cannot recall the specifics of, "I once sensed specific pressure coming from above, to push the Report faster and faster. I was concerned about it and disturbed enough to speak to Rankin about it." McCloy stated that he told Rankin he "believed the staff should have more time to work on everything." McCloy stated that "as a lawyer" he would have wanted additional time to "polish the Report," though he had "no disagreement on the fundamentals."

Interviewer Signature

Michael Ewing

Typed Signature Michael Ewing

Date transcribed _____

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McCloy stated that he believed the Commission had sufficient resources at its disposal, that "We could have gone further a field on various things, but I think we went far enough." McCloy stated that he had been concerned when "a couple of the staff sort of dropped off. I felt they should have finished the job."

McCloy stated that "I criticized the Chief Justice for being too sensitive to the wishes of the (Kennedy) family on the x-rays and photographs. I think we should have taken a stricter attitude. But he made the decision."

McCloy stated that "I got the impression that the FBI was cooperating fully," with the Commission, and that "they seemed to always be forthcoming and candid." He stated that he "received that impression of them through Mr. Rankin." Regarding the CIA, Mr. McCloy stated that "I didn't really differentiate between the FBI and the CIA. I looked to the CIA for the Cuban aspects and that kind of information. They gave us all they had on the Cuban area and it was pretty sparse. It was sparse, but that's all they had." Asked if he had any knowledge of the CIA-Mafia conspiracies to assassinate Fidel Castro, McCloy stated "No. No. There was never any suggestion of that. I had no knowledge. If we had it, we would have followed it. We would have followed the Cuban aspects more. It would have raised a lot of questions." McCloy did not provide any specific examples of what this additional work would have been.

McCloy stated that he doesn't recall any predisposition about the case within the agencies and doesn't recall "any pushing by any of them."

McCloy stated that "while Ruby's murder of Oswald had the appearance of suspicion or conspiracy, the facts didn't bear that out after extensive examination."

McCloy stated that he has never changed his basic view of the Commission conclusions, and that he has "never been shaken by these charlatans who write things."

McCloy stated that he had shot similar rifles to Oswald's, had "snapped the trigger on Oswald's actual rifle, sitting on the exact spot in the building window," and knows firearms very well. McCloy stated that this expertise led him to have "no trouble believing Oswald capable of the deed."

McCloy stated that "To me, I felt I knew the Oswald personality. He was a very known quantity to me. Ruby on the other hand was an unknown quantity to me. I never felt that I knew him that well. But I've never been shaken from our conclusions about both."

McCloy stated that "Ruby certainly had connections to the underworld, but what exactly - the Mafia or its edges - we couldn't seem to know. I guess our feeling was that they used him and he they, at least for making a dollar. But nothing else."

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McCloy stated that among the members of the Commission "I saw a good bit of Dulles, and had long sessions with Senator Russell. President Johnson had told me that he was looking to Russell and I for the best evaluation of the investigation. He told me that when he first appointed me." McCloy stated that he also spent a good deal of time with Warren and Rankin. McCloy further stated that "I didn't think that Ford was that informed on the case, that he was that in touch with the important aspects. I did not look to him for the best evaluation."

McCloy stated that there was "no pressure not to look at any particular areas. I never got that. Though I was troubled by Cuba, and thought there was some kind of connection there - I don't know what - I never felt any pressure."

Of Oswald, McCloy said, "I ended up with this fellow as a loner - with enough motivation in his soul to do it and do it alone - and with a particular feeling that he was taking a shot at society in general. He didn't fit in. And then his sneaking around when Nixon was in Dallas, going after him, and then the same thing with Walker. That really influenced me. He had a real history of stalking these men."

(The interview ended on this note, as Mr. McCloy was summoned to a meeting. He asked that I call back next week to complete any other questions).

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