

June 16, 1964

Comments on Preliminary Report --Phase II--pages 1-37

General: in general, style is good, terse and clear.
Form is good and except for minor question of
order of one or two items.

Questions that arise:

(In view of all testimony known to reader which
might produce varying theories.)

Page -1- line 5. "He brought the rifle into the
Depository building."



This statement is perhaps too strong in view of
conflicting testimony of Braziers on size of bundle
and fact Oswald is supposed to have carried it
between his palm and arm-pit." It would be sounder
to say, "all evidence indicates," or something of
that sort. This whole issue needs a little more
discussion and evaluation on the record by
commission members consulting with staff experts.
Just how this should be said is a question. As
the testimony in the record now reads, this would
be a statement which would probably be attacked by
critics of the commission.

Page -3- line 13. There has been so much discussion
about who mounted the telescopic sight that proof
the gun was shipped with sight mounted, raises a
question (again something commission critics will
grab onto.) Marina testifies she did not see a sight
on the gun but admits she might have missed seeing it.
Therefore, this is a point that should be discussed
by staff and commission to decide on the way to handle
it. Is it possible or practical Lee might have easily
removed the sight at some time when Marina saw it?
What are the possibilities?

Page -7 line 1 and 2. In view of Marina's second appearance
and testimony that she signed a membership card, this
sentence should probably be changed.

Page -9- certain critics of the investigation claimed rifle
was handled carelessly after its discovery. It might
be well to point out that therefore, the palm print
is particularly significant because it was protected
from casual obliteration or other prints.

Page 13 top. Much furor has arisen in Europe about the
identification of this photo and supposed "doctoring."
This paragraph will be attacked by critics as not
clear enough. A little more could be said here that
Marina took the rifle she had
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(2 page of comments.)

might be well in view of Mark Lane's harping on this to clear up the question here of an-"doctoring."

Page -13- Line 12. Was it actually on a "front porch" Lee did he practising? My impression from the record was that it was a side porch or rear. (see page 398) & 271. Same line -- "Marina frequently saw him in the dark..." How can you see in the dark? My impression was that she "heard him" working the bolt etc. (see page 398 testimony) & 271&365

Page -15-bottom. In regard to the brief account of how Lee got the BDB job, it would be well to stress that everything indicates this was mere coincidence, total coincidence. This is clear from what happened but the "plot theorists" are sure to question this. Our record is clear on this but perhaps even in the record this is not brought out strongly enough. What do commission members feel about this?

Page -26-Line 3. That Lee "assembled the rifle of the sixth floor" of the BDB is pure hypothesis. It might have done it anywhere? Shouldn't this statement be modified?

Page -28- I don't think I'd give quite so much space to this inconsistency. It is important in a sense but can't be avoided. On the other hand, within the overall evidence properly, the Frazier's recollection of the size of the package is probably not this important. We know beyond the shadow of a doubt the rifle was at Gaines and it was Lee's; we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was found on the 6th floor of the BDB -- it got there somehow and he must have carried it there as "curt in rods."

Page -31- Lines 9 & 10.

"It is now apparent etc." This is a weak paragraph. If this question is to be brought into this phase of the report, it should be more strongly supported by testimony of other eye-witnesses.

Page -37 last sentence. This is a good sentence for a fiction plot but unnecessary in the report.

GENERAL REVIEWS: This is good work and in general strong. I suggest, however, that due to the "plot theories" that every time an independent expert (independent from FBI) this be stressed. It should be stressed all through the report that although the FBI was used for its technical facilities, the commission took pains to avoid over-reliance on any government. Copy of material at the Gerald R. Ford Library