

May 15, 1975

Letters to the Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

Dear Sir:

On May 12, 1975 the Times reported that the Rockefeller Commission had ordered intensive photographic analysis of pictures showing the arrest of three "vagrants" at the site and on the day of President Kennedy's assassination. Dick Gregory has alleged that two of these "vagrants" resemble Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, respectively. It does not require intensive analysis of the sort now being undertaken with taxpayer money to see that these pictures do not depict Hunt and Sturgis.

Rather, I think it is apparent that the Rockefeller Commission is aiming its investigative cannons at straw men, at allegations which clearly have no substance, while it studiously avoids responsible, documented reports that the Warren Commission failed to investigate possible links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. This can only mean that the Rockefeller Commission is not engaged in a serious investigation of this aspect of CIA domestic activities. This notion is reinforced by the highly objectionable behavior of the Commission's chief counsel, David W. Belin, who on several occasions has violated the Commission's ground rules and made conclusory statements to the effect that he does not believe there was any CIA involvement in the assassination. Furthermore, Mr. Belin has used his position on this Commission to publicize his view that the Commission has adduced no evidence challenging Oswald's guilt. Here Mr. Belin propagandizes, for this is an area outside the Commission's jurisdiction and on which it cannot receive or adduce evidence.

Mr. Belin's past associations with the Warren Commission are indeed disturbing, and my own doubts were substantially heightened after I engaged in a voluminous correspondence with Mr. Belin. When Mr. Belin was appointed to this Commission by President Ford, I made extensive efforts to place the secret aspects of his past record before the public. I also made a personal presentation and plea to former Solicitor General Erwin Griswold, a member of the Rockefeller Commission:

The Rockefeller Commission, through leaks and through Mr. Belin, is preparing the public for acceptance of its non-investigation of CIA links to the Kennedy assassination. The public, in turn, should recognize that once again it is being deceived by those whose salaries it pays and in whom it places its trust.

I express my concern because I consider myself an authority on the subject of the Kennedy assassination. My book on that subject, Presumed Guilty, has just been published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, a respected publisher of scholarly books. A copy of my book has been sent to the Times book reviewer.

Sincerely,
Norm Roffman

3 Men Studied in Kennedy Assassination Photos

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, May 10—Photographs of three shabbily dressed men being led by the police from the scene of the assassination of President Kennedy are being re-examined by a photographic expert for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The expert was sent here from Washington on orders from the Rockefeller Commission, which is investigating Central Intelligence Agency involvement in domestic affairs, according to Herb Grubert, an assistant special agent of the bureau.

The pictures, mostly taken by newsmen covering the assassination in 1963, show three men who were temporarily detained by the police who converged on the assassination site after the shots that killed the President.

Conspiracy theorists contend that two of the men have strong resemblances to convicted in the Watergate break-in, E. Howard Hunt Jr. and Frank A. Sturgis, both of whom had associations with the C.I.A.

The unidentified expert took

2 'Vagrants' in Pictures Said to Resemble Watergate's Hunt and Sturgis

original negatives of the controversial pictures this week and reconstructed the manner in which the pictures were taken on Nov. 22, 1963, even down to the distance from the ground the person who took the pictures held his camera, explained Mr. Grubert.

Then, the Washington-based expert took new photographs from the exact spots the original pictures were snapped.

By duplicating the distances and angles and by locating reference points that appear in both the 1963 photos and the new pictures, he will be able to compute heights and weights of the three men who were released by the Dallas police in 1963. He will also be able to obtain details of bone structure and other individual traits by comparative analysis, Mr. Grubert said.

Once computed, the new data

will be compared with existing information about Mr. Hunt and Mr. Sturgis as they were in 1963.

In all, six different photographs of the three mysterious "vagrants" are being analyzed by the F.B.I. for the Rockefeller Commission.