

1/19/70

Paul and Cary,

Because the story is on the UPI wire, I am now copying the Post's story on Russell's forthcoming TV interviews. However, if you want it, I will.

He says, from this account, merely what I told you in confidence, he told me - in fact, less than he told me. He is satisfied there was a conspiracy.

Some time ago I discussed with Bud writing Warren again. He agreed to it but wondered whether the letter would reach him and, if it did, whether it would do any good. To attempt to satisfy the first count, if I can I'll send this certified this afternoon, return receipt requested.

As with Russell, I ask you to make no mention of this. Perhaps something may come of it, but I want to avoid the consequences of Lane's evil with that too-many-guns bit when I had something working. Also, I think it is essential that we keep our word when we give it.

I intend writing Russell, asking that he get a transcript of his remarks as they relate to the Commission.

I think if you read an account similar to this one (and I'd appreciate copies of any by the correspondents of your papers, UPI or AP-this one is by a Post staffer), it will be apparent that there is a wide difference between what Russell now says and the kooky reasons for it (which he believes) and the "disclaimer" he had written into the Report, which still says (p.19) that Oswald was the lone assassin. He also believes they were never told the whole story of Oswald, presumably that he was some kind of red agent.

Sincerely,

Russell Says He Never Believed Oswald Alone Planned Killing

By Don Oberdorfer

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Richard B. Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says he never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald planned the assassination alone.

"I think someone else worked with him (on the planning)," the Georgia Democrat said in one of a series of taped television interviews to be broadcast next month by WSB-TV, an Atlanta television station.

"There were too many things—the fact that he (Oswald) was at Minsk (in the Soviet Union), and that was the principal center for educating Cuban students . . . some of the trips he made to Mexico City and a number of discrepancies in the evidence, or as to his means of transportation, the luggage he had and whether or not anyone was with him—(that) caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself," he said.

Russell appeared to be in accord with the commission's conclusions that Oswald was the man who fired the shots at Kennedy, and that he acted alone. "I think that any other commission you might appoint today would arrive at that conclusion," he said.

Delayed Signing

Due to his doubts that Oswald planned the act alone,



Associated Press

Sen. Richard B. Russell, member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will expound his own views of that tragedy in a television interview in Atlanta.

s Russell said he insisted on a
l disclaimer sentence in the
t final report before he would
a sign it. That sentence in the
s report, which was issued in
3 September, 1964, says that
s "because of the difficulty of
l proving negatives to a cer-
s tainty the possibility of oth-
c ers being involved with
f either Oswald or (Jack
r Ruby cannot be established
s categorically, but if there is
a any such evidence, it has
o been beyond the reach of all
s the investigative agencies
e and resources of the United
a States and has not come to
o the attention of this com-
s mission."

n The majority of the seven-
e member commission, headed
s by then-Chief Justice Earl
r Warren, "wanted to find"
l that Oswald planned and
acted alone, Russell said.

Some 25 hours of inter-
views, which constitute the

most extensive memoir yet
available on the long public
career of the 72-year-old
Georgia senator, will be con-
densed to three one-hour
programs for broadcast in
Atlanta Feb. 11, 12 and 13.

Highlights on Feb. 10

Cox Broadcasting Co.,
owner of the Atlanta station,
will present 30 minutes of
program highlights at a
Washington Hilton reception
here Feb. 10. The members
of the U.S. Senate, senior
members of the House, ad-
ministration officials, family
and friends of Russell are
being invited. Though the
senator has been in ill
health with emphysema and
lung cancer, it is expected
that he will attend.

Now president pro tem-
pore of the Senate and the
chairman of its Appropria-

tions Committee, Russell has
granted only rare interviews
during recent years. None of
those published have delved
so deeply into his relation-
ship with Lyndon B. Johnson,
his Senate protege and later
his close friend in the White
House.

The relationship between
the two men has been "one
of the most peculiar in

American history," say the
Georgian in the taped inter-
views, evidently referring to
their division of opinion on
civil rights and many issues
in later years which some-
how did not prevent a con-
tinuing close friendship.

Called to White House

After Mr. Johnson became
President, he would fre-
quently summon his old
friend and Senate mentor to
the White House in the eve-
nings. "I'd go down and we'd
have a highball and eat sup-
per and talk about things
and people," the senator re-
called. "He was always in-
terested in people and what
they were doing, the people
up there on the Hill, without
getting into any arguments
about the matters that we
differed over . . .

"He would call me about
things, well, like the Do-
minican incident and things
like that, the Panama Canal
controversy. He never did
stop advising with me on
things like that. It was just
on these domestic spending
issues that he made so many
mistakes . . . (he) made every
conceivable mistake almost
from the standpoint of ad-
ministration and organiza-
tion," Russell said.

Both Russell and Mr. John-
son were strongly opposed
to U.S. military intervention
in South Vietnam when it
was first proposed in 1953.
Once the U.S. became com-
mitted, Russell said in the
taped interviews, he could
not criticize Mr. Johnson for
sending additional forces.

"My complaint with him
was not for sending others
in, but because we didn't go
on and win the day by clos-
ing up the ports of North
Vietnam. He let the timid
souls in the State Depart-
ment talk him out of that,"
said the senator. "He could
have ended that war in six
months any time."