

Rowley's memo FBI-Inv.

Secret Service/FBI JFK investigation

HW 5/17/77

I have written earlier about Rowley's 12/9/69 orders to all his SACs that the FBI was in charge, etc. There are a few other elements to note.

Regardless of what LBJ directed the Secret Service had statutory authority. The FBI did not. So Rowley wrote to his SACs not in terms of what they picked up about the assassination. His words are "any information coming to the attention of any Secret Service office concerning Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby."

This, of course, represents the prior concept of guilt.

By 12/9 there was a Commission. Rowley makes no mention of this.

He gave orders for what I've never seen from any source, written records of what they told the FBI, which is what he directed. Such information "will be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office by telephone, to be confirmed in writing by letter to the Special Agent in Charge" of the FBI, copy to Rowley.

The Rowley memo can be taken to have junk in mind in this part from what is at the end, "Any information believed to be of significance should be reported immediately to Deputy Chief Paterni." Rowley would then decide whether to investigate.

The Secret Service could benefit from this arrangement in being able to escape criticism. The FBI benefitted from control.

What this could have meant is illustrated by a Secret Service investigation of Oswald's literature in New Orleans, cut off promptly by the New Orleans office through FBI HQ and Secret Service HQ. Nothing ever came of that but the Secret Service was on the right track. It also would have learned that Oswald had at least one associate in his literature printing and distribution.

In fact when the Commission wanted the pamphlet in which he used the 544 address it was never able to obtain a copy from the FBI, which had it. It was provided in the last minute by the SS.

Rowley's orders coincide in time with the FBI's first report, CD 1. Johnson's orders were not of 12/9. They were not later than 11/23.