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B) If it was too difficult for the Commission to undertake such simple *part*ment tasks as asking Mrs. Connally to mail it the Governor's clothing before the evidence ~~was~~ ^{they were} destroyed, or to ask such readily-available celebrities as Cliff Carter what he did with ~~the~~ ^{his} clothing, ^{which we will soon examine,} there was nothing too difficult or too expensive when to come to spying on those who were critical of the Commission and the government's pretended investigation of the assassination.

(pp 000-0) In Chapter 9 we examined a February 29, 1964 Willens memo and in it saw the Commission's prostitution of the American Bar Association in its effort to stifle criticism and Mark Lane, ~~xxxxxx~~ whose legal services had been engaged by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. (May I parenthetically wonder how orderly, release of the Commission's files was served by making a February 29 Willens memo available earlier and suppressing this one, written earlier?)

It now turns out that this was not the only memo Willens wrote on that subject. Suppressed until September 20, 1967, was one he drafted February 26, 1964, ~~three days earlier.~~

On February 26, before it had begun its own investigation, the Commission was considering putting a full-time FBI tail on Mark Lane and was giving serious thought to violating the privacy of small groups of two dozen Americans who gathered to discuss and hear about the murder of their President. For this kind of investigation, there was no shortage of FBI manpower or money. Only for sending for Governor Connally's clothing before their evidentiary value was destroyed, or getting the irreplaceable picture of the assassination before they disappeared, was there penny-pinching.

The FBI had taped all of Lane's public appearances (More, they are still regarded as the most urgent national secrets and dozens of them are classified "secret" in the National Archives-by Hoover's direction, presumably!). The Commission wanted ~~more~~. Here is every word of the two paragraphs of Willens' memo, which is deliberately made so illegible it is unusable for reproduction:

→ 2 paragraphs copied
in

X.P.
Lane, Mark

February 26, 1964

JL

MEMORANDUM TO MR. J. LEE RANKIN, General Counsel

From: Edward P. Willens

Re: Mark Lane

During the course of my discussion this morning with Mr. Malley of the FBI he brought up the matter of your interest in having coverage of the lectures given by Mark Lane before various meetings. Mr. Malley pointed out that the FBI is not currently covering Mr. Lane on a day-to-day basis. The FBI does know however that Mark Lane does attend small meetings of approximately 30 or 35 people which are not publicly announced. If these meetings are not publicly announced the FBI cannot get actual recordings of the presentations made by Mr. Lane.

After our discussion Mr. Malley agreed that he would write a letter to you setting forth what coverage the FBI can provide of Mark Lane's activities under their current procedures. At that point if the Commission desires fuller coverage we will have to make some specific request to that effect to the FBI. I think that we will want to consider very carefully the problem inherent in requesting fuller coverage of Mr. Lane which might require placing him under full surveillance by the FBI. Such a procedure would inform us as to his location, give us some indication of all meetings which he attended, but would still not enable us to obtain recordings or knowledge of the substance of his presentations at the meetings which are not open to the general public.

Handwritten: Lane, Wick

February 25, 1954

Handwritten: J.W.

MEMORANDUM TO MR. J. EDWARD BARKER, General Counsel

From: Edward P. Williams

Re: Mark Lane

During the course of my discussion this morning with Mr. Holley of the FBI he brought up the matter of your interest in having coverage at the lectures given by Mark Lane before various meetings. Mr. Holley pointed out that the FBI is not currently covering Mr. Lane on a day-to-day basis. The FBI does know however that Mark Lane does attend small meetings of approximately 30 or 35 people which are not publicly announced. If these meetings are not publicly announced the FBI cannot get actual recordings of the presentations made by Mr. Lane.

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One does not have to agree with the action to understand what could have impelled the withholding of this Willens memo. There is nothing in it to make the government proud. nothing to make citizens feel free or that they dare even dream of exercising those "inalienable" rights, those "God-Given" in the political addresses, nothing that helps solves the assassination. Only repression is in them, and a fine portrait of its darling for the Washington Post.

Howard Willens who, despite Arlen Specter's contrary account, is a Department of Justice lawyer, wrote a memo to the former Solicitor General of the United States then the general counsel of the Commission headed by the Chief Justice of the United States, bragging that it was having its secret police eavesdrop on the lawyer representing the mother of the murdered accused assassin and telling them how ~~as~~ they could ~~visit~~ further rape American freedom and justice if this were not enough, by having the secret police penetrate small, private gatherings. His lament was that in such small groups it would not be possible to tape record what was said.

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He didn't consult the right part of the FBI. One of my speeches, was visibly bugged by radio. This was in mid-December 1966, when I had just published a book saying the FBI had engaged in a coverup.

~~IN SAN FRANCISCO, IN MID-DECEMBER 1966~~

He didn't get any reprimand, that I can find, either. He continued in his position of trust and authority through the life of the then-young Commission. His thoughts were the Commission's thoughts, his desires theirs., too.

leaves

lusts

Extra space