

STAFF MEETING - MARCH 2, 1964

The meeting convened at 11:30 A.M. Those present were Messrs. Rankin, Belin, Eisenberg, Ely, Goldberg, Griffen, Hubert, Jenner, Liebeler, Mosk, Redlich, Slawson, Stern and Willens.

The first issue discussed was whether staff members should interview witnesses prior to their appearance before the Commission. The value of insuring that the testimony heard by the Commission be coherent and relatively brief was urged in favor of such interviews. In opposition it was argued that interviews would tend to iron out inconsistencies which should be noted by the Commission.

It was concluded that interviews conducted prior to the witness' appearance before the Commission be recorded and put in the record, unless the testimony is so remote or extraneous that an affidavit will suffice.

Mr. Rankin remarked that he had spoken with Mr. Carr concerning the taking of depositions during the Ruby trial. Mr. Carr had reported a fear on the part of Mr. Wade that our doing so would provide Mr. Belli with an opportunity to claim that we were interfering with the trial. Mr. Wade had, therefore, requested that we wait until after the trial, or at least conduct the interviews outside the Dallas area.

Doubt was expressed as to the reasonableness of Wade's estimate of ten trial days. And it was suggested that many of the witnesses, of interest to us, would not be susceptible of subpoena in connection with the Ruby trial.

One proposal made was that the Commission bring the witnesses to Washington to testify. The difficulty of being sure that a member of the Commission would be available to hear the testimony was noted.

The following schedule was tentatively suggested:

Wednesday: Lane
Thursday : Four Secret Service agents
Friday : Four eyewitnesses

Next week: Ten witnesses from the Ball-Belin area.

At 1:20 P.M. the meeting was recessed until 4:00 P.M.

Noted - 1525

3/2/64

*J.F.R.
3-6-64*

*This problem resolved by memo to
staff from me of about the middle
of March - J.F.R. (memo of 3/17/64)*