

- 11/26/63** *Wheels Within Deals: How The Kennedy Investigation Was Organized*, Sylvia Meagher, *Minority of One*, 7-8/68, [Clipped and filed Warren Commission, 7-8/68.]
- 11/26/63** Washington, 11/25 - The Government moved tonight to give the public all the facts on President Kennedy's assassination and the slaying of the asserted killer.
- The White House announced a broad inquiry into the events of the last few days. The announcement said: "The people of the nation may be sure that all of the facts will be made public." *New York Times*, Cabell Phillips
- 11/26/63** ... Questions have been raised in this country and abroad as to whether Ruby killed Oswald because the accused assassin knew too much.
- Federal and state inquiries already have been ordered into both the Kennedy assassination and the Oswald slaying in an effort to eventually provide the world with all known facts. *AP*, 11/26/63, 1:38 p.m. CST, Art Everett NL, Ruby Dallas
- 11/26/63** Washington -- Kennedy-Johnson [transference of power] roundup. Lyndon B. Johnson ... today ... began a big push for "continuity without confusion" [and] ... pressed for a full investigation, and complete publicity, of the assassination, and the slaying of the alleged assassin. He evidently had in mind the ugly rumors, racing around the count and the world without confirmation, that there could be more in the grisly episodes than meets the eye. *AP*, 3:16 p.m. CST, Raymond J. Crowley
- 11/26/63** Washington -- President Johnson has ordered the FBI to prepare a detailed report on the Assassination of President Kennedy and that the people be told all the facts.
- The report is to cover, too, the assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused slayer of the late President, the White House announced yesterday.
- Johnson has "directed all federal agencies to cooperate, and the people of the nation may be sure that all the facts will be made public," the White House said. *AP*, 4:43 a.m. EST, Edmond LeBreton
- 11/30/63** Earl Warren, chairman  
Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia  
Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky  
Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana  
Representative Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan  
Allen W. Dulles, former director of the CIA  
John J. McCloy, former disarmament adviser to President Kennedy

J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the commission; former Solicitor General of the United States

Walter E. Craig  
Charles B. Murray  
Charles S. Rhyne, *New York Times*, John D. Morris

**11/30/63** John J. McCloy - see transcript of speech by G. William Donhoff, p. 4 last paragraph and p. 5.

**11/26/63** Austin, Tex. - Attorney General Waggoner Carr said tonight that Dallas would probably be the site of his proposed court of inquiry into events related to the assassination of President Kennedy. He said it would be convened in the near future.

Carr said the court of inquiry was necessary because it was the only way short of a trial to get witnesses to testify under the threat of perjury.

"Its purpose will be very simple: to establish what is fact and what is rumor in this matter," Carr said.

The Attorney General of Texas appeared at a press conference tonight with Assistant U. S. Attorney General Herb Miller [head of the criminal division of the Department of Justice, of Washington and U.S. Attorney Barefoot Sanders of Dallas.

... Miller said the facts would be made public as soon as assembled "to tell the American public and the peoples of foreign lands what happened." [He] said Carr's aims and the aim of the Federal Government were "identical." "We want to get all the facts and to lay to rest the speculation and rumors that are abounding," Miller said.

... Carr said his staff will exchange its information with the FBI, and vice versa. ... [He] said he hopes the public court of inquiry will demonstrate that "nothing was covered up or tainted, to show that no public officials conspired to cover anything up." ... [He] said he assumed the inquiry would be held in Dallas because "it happened there, that's where the evidence is, and because we would be able to work with Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade." *AP*, 9:50 p.m. CST, Tom Johnson

**11/30/63** Washington, Nov. 29 - President Johnson created a special commission tonight to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy. He appointed Chief Justice Earl Warren to head the panel.

The White House, in announcing the action, ... added:

"The President is instructing the special commission to satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as it can be discovered, and to report its findings and conclusions to him, to the American people and to the world." *New York Times*, John D. Morris

- 12/2/63** Washington --- The FBI hopes to send to President Johnson this week its report on the assassination of John. F. Kennedy and the subsequent slaying of the man accused of firing the fatal shots.
- It will be a narrative account in minute detail of other FBI investigative reports, it will stick to positive statements of what actually happened, dismissing baseless rumors by not mentioning them.
- It is expected to state that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy, and that Jack Ruby, acting alone, shot Oswald.
- ... The FBI report is sure to be the cornerstone of its [the Warren Commission's] investigation. *AP*, 12:33 p.m. CST, Joseph E. Mohbat
- 12/3/63** Washington - by Sterling F. Green, without naming source. Paraphrase: Exhaustive FBI report now nearly ready for the White House, basic documentary, but small leads and tips still being checked. Shows Oswald was the one and unaided assassin. First and third shots struck President, either could have killed him. Second shot missed him and hit Connally. About 51 seconds elapsed between the first and third shots, but believed he could have aimed and fired that rapidly. All 3 came from same direction, behind and slightly to the right of President's car, giving assassin a target moving approximately in direction of his line of fire. Ballistics studies indicate same rifle fired all three shots. *AP*, 1:52 am EST
- 12/3/63** Washington - story by Sterling F. Green, without naming source, on FBI report now nearly ready for the White House:
- The report has been described as a narrative in minute detail, sticking to established facts and dismissing, by omission, the dozens of rumors and theories which have been run down and found to be baseless. *AP*, 1:52 a.m. EST
- 12/5/63** ... Not only did the leak of the FBI's essential finding in the Oswald case by-pass the President of the United States, which is bad enough, but it pre-empted the very work of the commission headed by Chief Justice Warren, to investigate the assassination. *San Francisco Chronicle*, editorial
- 12/6/53** Washington, 12/5 - The commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination ... decided [today] to ask Congress for power to subpoena persons and papers. Little opposition was expected, and early passage of the bill was almost certain.
- The request for subpoena power opens the possibility that the commission will hold public hearings and otherwise make its own detailed search for the facts.
- The alternative would be to appraise material gathered by others, especially the Federal Bureau of Investigation. *AP*, 11:11 pm EDT

See 6/29/64 in this file.

- 12/7/63** Washington -- Story on Congressional Republicans deploring what they called attempts to blame "hatred" in this country for the assassination of President Kennedy, asserting it was wrong to blame right wingers and conservatives for stirring up hatred, which has communism as its real source.
- ... "This evening [12/6] the Attorney General of Texas, Waggoner Carr, announced here that a Texas inquiry into the tragedy would give way to the Federal [Warren] Commission." *New York Times*, Anthony Lewis
- 12/7/63** Washington, 12/6 - ... The commission appointed to look into the assassination and the murder of Oswald held a second meeting today but made little progress because it did not yet have the Government's report on the events.
- Chief Justice Earl Warren, the chairman, told reporters after a meeting of a little over an hour that it was not possible to lay out the inquiry or even plan a staff in the absence of the report.
- "We have no idea of the magnitude of the work," the Chief Justice said.
- The one step the commission did take today was to approve the language of a Congressional resolution giving it subpoena power. This is expected to be introduced shortly. The Chief Justice said the request for subpoena power was no sign at all that the commission had hearings in mind. It was simply a basic preparatory move, he said. *New York Times*, Anthony Lewis
- 12/9/63** Washington -- The Justice Department sent to a presidential commission today its report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the subsequent slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.
- [details not disclosed, but known to name Oswald as the lone and unaided killer, and is expected to conclude that d Jack Ruby shot Oswald, that Oswald and Ruby both were acting alone, and that they never knew each other.]
- ... The Senate voted unanimous approval today on a resolution giving broad powers to the special investigating commission.
- The resolution was sent to the House. It empowers the presidential commission to force testimony from reluctant witnesses by granting immunity from prosecution for what they say. The commission's subpoenas would be enforceable by federal court orders. Failure to comply would be punishable as contempt. *AP*, 6:17 p.m. CST
- 12/11/63** Washington -- J. Lee Rankin, former Solicitor General of the United States, has been chosen as general counsel of the commission inquiring into President Kennedy's assassination.

... Mr. ... served in the Justice Department through the eight years of the Eisenhower administration ... is a Republican ... is respected for his lack of partisanship. ... Since the change of administrations in 1961, Mr. Rankin has been in private law practice in New York. He has been active in civil liberties matters.

... Congress completed today [12/10] action} on a bill to give the commission subpoena power. The House passed the measure by voice without audible objection as the Senate did yesterday. The bill now goes to President Johnson.

The measure permits the commission to grant immunity to witnesses. Such a grant would remove the opportunity to invoke the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. In short, witnesses could be effectively forced to testify. [on pain of prosecution for contempt if they refused to testify] *New York Times*, Anthony Lewis

**12/14/63** There was an important backstage by-play when the FBI submitted its report to the Presidential Commission investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The fact was that J. Edgar Hoover ... wanted to publish the report immediately. This would have got the jump on a commission that actually is investigating the FBI.

... Note - When the Presidential Commission stepped in to prevent publication, an official FBI leak let certain conclusions out to the press. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Drew Pearson

**12/16/63** Earl Warren raises question of speed with which Oswald was issued passport in New Orleans. *Document addendum to the Warren Report* [minutes of executive hearing]

**12/19/63** New York 12/17 - A former New York Assemblyman has urged Chief Justice Earl Warren's investigating commission to appoint a defense counsel for Lee H. Oswald in its inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mark Lane ... submitted a 100,000-word brief to the Warren commission by mail Tuesday night [12/17].

... Yesterday, Mr. Lane said in response to a question that he would be willing to take on such a defense role, but was "not offering" to do so. *New York Times*

**12/17/63** Washington, 12/16 - The commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy made clear today that it plans a searching inquiry going beyond existing Government reports. [See 6/29/64 of this section, *AP*, 11:11 p.m. EDT]

Chief Justice Earl Warren ... announced that the group was calling on the Federal Bureau of Investigation for all the materials

underlying the report it submitted a week ago.

The Chief Justice also said the commission had no plans now to release any part of the FBI report or summary of it. He had said earlier that there probably would be a preliminary statement from the commission on the bureau's findings.

These developments reflected the fact that the FBI report did not answer all the questions about the assassination. *New York Times*

- 12/19/63** The FBI investment in a Warren Commission finding identical with its own cannot be emphasized too boldly. Should the Warren Commission reach and publish a conclusion substantially different from the one submitted so publicly by the FBI, public confidence in the FBI would be so shaken as, in all likelihood, to render the FBI as it is now constituted, almost absolutely useless. One can assume that the FBI wishes to avoid that result. Lane Brief, *National Guardian*
- 1/64** p. 23: ...As Scripps-Howard columnist Richard Starnes wrote in a column entitled *Truth Won't Out*, on 12/3, "realism instructs us to expect little from the special commission ... No member of the commission has any competence as an investigator, nor does any have access to a disinterested investigative staff. The commission will be almost wholly dependent upon the facts made available to it by the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dallas Police Department. In a sense, of course, the special commission is investigating the role played by each of these agencies, and it is manifestly naive to expect these cops to bear witness against themselves, or, indeed, each other." *The Minority of One*, Eric Norden, p. 16-23
- 1/64** ... so far there has been no indication that the commission is planning to launch a really extensive investigation of its own. Is the FBI then to act, in effect, as the commission's staff? Will no effort be made to evaluate the job that was done by the Secret Service, the Dallas Police, and the FBI itself? Is the possibility of a treasonous political conspiracy to be ruled out?
- ... the way to confront them [suspicions] ... is by an independent investigation of the most scrupulous and painstaking kind that culminates in a lengthy report in which every question involved in the assassination is examined with microscopic thoroughness and according to the highest standards of judicial impartiality. The Warren Commission ought to know that anything less would only reinforce the ugly suspicions circulating through the air, and would only compound the shame and disgust that all of us should be feeling -- still. *Commentary, The Warren Commission: an Editorial*, by Norman Podhoretz
- 1/64** Warns against merely sifting FBI reports. Notes that conspiracy theories are regarded as natural abroad, and that anything less than fullest investigation "would only reinforce the ugly suspicions circulating through the air, and would only compound the shame and disgust that all of us should be feeling -- still." *Commentary*, Editorial by Norman Podhoretz.
- 1/12/64** New York -- The staff of the federal commission probing President Kennedy's assassination will divide its work into six areas of

inquiry, the *New York Times* reported today. As outlined by Rankin, the areas are:

1. Oswald's activities the day of the assassination.
2. Ruby's background and activities.
3. Oswald's life and background, except for:
4. Careers in the Marines and the Russia.
5. Oswald's murder, including how it could happen.
6. Protection for Kennedy, including scrutiny of the Secret Service, the FBI, Dallas Police, and the influence, if any, of Dallas hate movements, if any.

[Story also lists staff of lawyers Rankin has assembled to handle these lines of inquiry.] *AP*, 6:31 p.m. EST

**1/21/64** Washington - ... The statement said the commission adopted procedures it will follow in taking testimony from persons with information on the ... assassination ...

The plans call for: at least one member of the commission to be present; for the witness to be represented by a lawyer of his choice if he desires [See 1/29/64, *AP*, 7:42 p.m., CST]; the lawyer will be allowed to ask questions of his client to clarify testimony. The witness will receive a copy of testimony given. *AP*, 9:09 p.m. CST

**1/16/64** According to panel counsel J. Lee Rankin [on 1/11?] ... the commission does not intend to concern itself with the guilt or innocence of Lee H. Oswald. "The commission is not engaged in determining the guilt of anybody," he said. "It is a fact-finding body." *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

**1/23/64** Fort Worth -- Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said today she had sent telegrams to Washington asking the right to cross-examine witnesses appearing before the presidential commission investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The mother ... said ... Marina will be questioned in Washington or here by commission members ...

"They may be questioning her now," Mrs. Oswald said. "They may come down here to question her.

"I've seen and heard enough to know what is going on around here. I've heard enough of these trumped up charges, and that's why I want her [Marina] cross-examined."

**1/27/64** Washington - The Russian-born widow of Lee Harvey Oswald will be the first witness called "before the Presidential commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Chief Justice Earl Warren announced today. ...

... Mrs. Marina Oswald's lawyers will be present and will be perfectly free to ask any questions which they feel essential to bringing out the whole true story, Warren [said]. *AP*, 1/27/64, 12:55 p.m. CST, Sterling F. Green

**1/29/64** Dallas - ... At today's news conference both Mrs. [Marguerite] Oswald and [Mark] Lane made public letters from J. Lee Rankin ... saying that it was not advisable for Lane to have access to the material the commission has or to represent Mrs. Oswald at the committee sessions. *AP*, 7:42 p.m. CST, Marshall Comerer

[See 1/21/64, *AP* 9:09 p.m. CST]

**1/30/64** [Mark] Lane told the Guardian: "If a defendant were held incommunicado for 48 hours the Chief Justice and all of his colleagues on the Supreme Court would throw his confession out as tainted and absolutely worthless. The commission, however, evidently is going to rely upon the testimony of a 22-year-old Russian girl, living in a foreign country, held incommunicado for eight weeks and brainwashed by the FBI and Secret Service during that time. ... " *National Guardian*

**2/3/64** Listing witnesses before commission filed separately.

**2/4/64** Washington -- The secretly given testimony [2/3] of Mrs. Marina Oswald on events preceding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy "may not be released in your lifetime " Chief Justice Earl Warren has disclosed [2/3].

... The full testimony will be preserved for the public, he explained, but if it contains information affecting national security, it may be suppressed for decades "and I say that seriously."

... Yesterday's day-long questioning ... dealt with Oswald's activity and movements in the United States, after he brought his bride here.

... "Mrs. Oswald told us some things we hadn't heard before -- some new things, new evidence," Rankin told questioners.

... In the area of testimony mentioned by Rankin, the questioning presumably covered the source of the money which paid for Oswald's travels, his purchase of the mail-order rifle which Texas authorities say killed Kennedy, and any possible link between Oswald and Jack Ruby. *AP*, 1:26 a.m. EST, Sterling Green.

**2/4/64** Washington -- ...Questioned on his "lifetime" comment, Warren told reporters late today he had been speaking "a little facetiously." but none the less factually. He explained:

This man was in Russia and in Mexico, and we don't know what they that may involve. The trips may have security aspects, and if they do, we could not release the security matters at the time of our report.



... He added: I can assure you that nothing will be withheld because it might be embarrassing to the agency concerned.". *AP*, Sterling Green, 7:27 p.m. CST

[See 6/26/64, Drew Pearson]

**2/6/64** President Johnson [instructed] the commission ... "to satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as it can be discovered, and to report its findings and conclusions to him, the American people and the world."

[After the commission heard its first witness, Marina Oswald] in secret session ... Warren "gave notice" ... to reporters that Mrs. Oswald's testimony may not be released "in your lifetime." ...

With all due respect for the judicial integrity of Warren, we suggest that there is a striking contradiction in the Presidential mandate and the first important public statement on the commission's work by its chairman. *National Guardian*, editorial

**2/6/64** - Why has no one - except the rival TV networks which were frozen out - objected to the appearance on *CBS* before millions of Americans of Marina Oswald, exactly one week before her private session with the commission?

- Why, if it is so vitally concerned with national security, did the commission not insist that Mrs. Oswald's first testimony be made before the commission - particularly in view of the fact that Mrs. Oswald had been held incommunicado by the federal police [in a perfect setting for brainwashing] for nine weeks; and why did the commission not object to this incredible state of affairs?  
*National Guardian*, editorial

**2/7/64** Washington, 2/6 - The text of Chief Justice Warren's remarks follows:

The commission announces that Mrs. Marguerite Oswald ... has requested that she be allowed to testify before the commission and produce evidence that she has. ... She has also been informed that she may have her counsel present and that he may interrogate her. *New York Times*, William M. Blair

**2/8/64** Fort Worth [no date] - ... Mrs. Oswald ... said she was "thrilled to death [close quote?] to have finally broken through to testify in Washington before the presidential commission ...

"It was a real fight," she said.

She said telegrams were sent to Chief Justice Earl Warren and President Lyndon B. Johnson requesting to be heard. She also credited numerous statements to news media for pressing her demands. . *News Call Bulletin* [*UPI*]

**2/8/64** "The only way the truth will ever come out," he said at a press conference here Friday, "is at a public hearing with the right of cross examination."

He suggested that the Warren Commission's decision not to hold a public hearing must inevitably throw doubt on its findings.

... "the FBI is not suppressing evidence. It is simply not gathering all the evidence that is there. The FBI has not interviewed several persons who were at the scene of the shooting on 11/22. Why not? *NCB*, George Dushek, account of Mark Lane press conference.

**2/8/64** ... The Warren Commission, he said, "is functioning as judge, jury, prosecutor and defense attorney. ... the Chief Justice, for whom I have the greatest respect, is applying different standards to this case than he would to any case heard before the Supreme Court." *San Francisco Chronicle*, Ron Fimrite, interview with Mark Lane.

**2/8/64** Fort Worth - ... Mrs. [Marguerite] Oswald ... said she was "thrilled to death to have finally broken through to testify in Washington before the presidential commission ...

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She said telegrams were sent to Chief Justice Earl Warren and President Lyndon B. Johnson requesting to be heard. *San Francisco News Call Bulletin* [UPI]

**2/9/64** Washington -- story on arrival of Mrs. Marguerite Oswald to testify before Warren Commission.

Before boarding her plane in Dallas, Mrs. Oswald told a brief news conference that she had never been questioned by either the Secret Service or the FBI and that she would give the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren evidence that it did not have about her son. *AP*, 8:15 p.m. EST

**2/10/64** Washington - The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald testified for six hours today but so far has said "nothing that would change the picture," chief justice Earl Warren told reporters.

... Warren said Mrs. Oswald, before the hearing, notified the commission that her attorney, Mark Lane ... was busy on other matters. She asked the commission to appoint a lawyer for her. The commission referred the request to the District of Columbia Bar Association which named [John M.] Doyle to take over on short notice. *AP* 356 p.c., Sterling Green

**2/11/64** Washington -- [2<sup>nd</sup> day of Marguerite's testimony; first day Warren said she had said nothing which would change the picture as he knew it].

...Lane accompanied Mrs. Oswald to her second day of testimony, but already had been refused the right to be present and cross-examine witnesses in what he called the commission's "star chamber" proceedings.

Instead, he went two questions into the hearing room for her to answer. The first dealt with the type of custody in which Oswald's wife, mother and two children were held after the assassination; the second with Marina's Oswald's statements to her mother-in-law late on 11/22, after Oswald had been captured.

His intent, Lane said, was to demonstrate that the 22-year-old wife ... had been "brainwashed" while under the government's protective seclusion.

[story quoted Marina as saying 11/22 that Oswald had a gun, but that the gun the police showed her did not look like it].

... On 11/22, Mrs. Oswald said, she tried to leave the motel [where the Secret Service had taken her, Marina and the two children] by a bedroom door. As she stepped outside -- according to Lane's account of her testimony,-- two agents seized her, one by either arm, and turned her around, escorted her inside and closed the door.

One then went to a tape recorder and made an oral report on the incident, Lane quoted the woman as saying.

... Lane left the commission's offices late an hour after the afternoon session began, and held a 30-minute news conference in the lobby.

[He made these points: That the paraffin tests showed Oswald could have fired a pistol but not a rifle, that medical evidence shows shots came from in front, that fingerprints and palmprints on rifle must belong to Capt. Fritz since he was seen handling rifle.

That four Dallas reporters -- he named only one -- Mary Woodward, who were close to the scene that the shots sounded as if they came from the overpass.

That identification of Oswald [as Tippit's killer] is in dispute because one eyewitness said the assailant was a short stocky man.

[Story explains that when Lane did not appear first day, Mrs. Oswald asked commission for a lawyer. John F. Doyle obtained through Washington Bar Association.]

Lane said he asked today whether he would be allowed to sit in and represent her jointly with Loyle, but Doyle replied that he had been retained "in the absence of counsel" and that if Lane came into the case he would be obliged to step out. Lane said he therefore, withdrew. *AP*, 2.43 p.m. CST, Sterling Green

**2/11/64**

Washington, 2/10 - ... Chief Justice Warren said Mrs. Oswald had telephoned Mr. Rankin last week, requesting that she be permitted to testify and that the commission name counsel for her. Mr. Rankin suggested, Mr. Warren said, that she bring her own lawyer but she replied that her lawyer was unable to be in Washington because he was engaged in other matters.

Mrs. Oswald has said that Mark Lane of New York had agreed to represent her son before the Presidential commission without fee.

Mr. Rankin consulted with the Chief Justice on her request for counsel, Mr. Warren said, adding that he had suggested Mr. Pratt be called. [John Pratt, president of the District of Columbia Bar Association.]

Mr. Pratt was understood to have checked the idea with other lawyers, who also recommended Mr. [John F.] Doyle, a former United States Attorney. Mr. Doyle telephoned Mrs. Oswald Friday and agreed to accept the assignment. *New York Times*, William M. Blair

**2/11/64**

Washington -- Mrs. Oswald: [2<sup>nd</sup> day of her testimony] Chief Justice Warren told reporters that the older woman appeared to day "with two lawyers," Doyle and Lane.

Warren said he asked Lane if he was representing Mrs. Oswald in the proceeding; that Lane looked at Mrs. Oswald and she stated that he would be in the city only a few hours and asked if he could remain beside her.

Doyle at that point said he had been appointed to represent her in the absence of her own counsel it and that if she now had a lawyer he would have to ask to be excused.

Warren then asked the witness which lawyer she wanted. She left the hearing room for a talk with Lane and returned to say that Doyle would represent her. Lane still said he would like to remain just to hear the testimony and not to participate. This, the commission refused.

Warren confirmed that Lane earlier had asked the right to participate, saying he had been retained to defend the slain Oswald. His request was denied, Warren said, because the commission is acting as a fact-finding body and is "not prosecuting Lee Oswald" Further, the chief justice said, lane does not represent Oswald's family -- his wife and two small children.

This account jibed with that given by Lane when he left the commission offices, but Lane denounced the hearing as a "star chamber" proceeding. *AP*, Washington, 6:33 p.m. CST, Sterling Green

**2/12/64**

Washington -- Mrs. marguerite Oswald said today she told the Warren Commission she believes her son was a U.S. Intelligence agent who was "set up to take the blame" for President Kennedy's assassination. She said she believes her son was innocent.

"I realize that as a human being he could be guilty."

But she said she possesses "pertinent evidence" leading her to believe the assassin is still at large.

Chief Justice Earl Warren told newsmen after the hearing, however, that [she] ... offered no evidence to support her belief that f [Oswald] ... was a secret agent for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Warren: "She says she believes her son is innocent, that it is possible that he committed the crime, but that it is possible that other people could have committed it."

[She told a press conference:]

"Yes, I believe Lee was an intelligence agent, and I so stated to the Warren commission," she said.

... "I have as much circumstantial evidence that he was, as the Dallas police that he was the assassin.

"Being an agent, he would not say it to anyone."

Warren said the commission has received no evidence from any federal agency to substantiate the view that Oswald ever worked for any government agency. *AP*, 5:41 p.m. CST, Sterling Green

**2/13/64**

The *Dallas News* reported on Tuesday [2/11] that one of the witnesses who might soon be called was a janitor in *the Texas School Book Depository* ...

.... The *News* said the janitor has reported that Oswald spoke to him on the fourth-floor stairway landing, saying he was going upstairs to eat lunch.

... When advised of the Dallas report, the chief justice paused and smiled before replying: "Well, maybe they know - I don't." *AP* 131 aes, Sterling Green

[See this file 5/9/64 - *National Guardian*

**2/13/64**

Intelligence chief John A. McCone said today that "Lee Oswald was never directly or indirectly linked with the Central Intelligence Agency."

McCone's statement, through a CIA spokesman, was prompted by Mrs. Margaret Oswald's expressed belief that he son was a CIA secret, agent "set up to take the blame" for President Kennedy's assassination. *AP*, 12:34 p.m. CST, Washington -- *1<sup>st</sup> lead Kennedy investigation*, by Sterling Green

**2/20-3/26/64** Series of six articles on the assassination. *L'Express*, Thomas G. Buchanan

**2/22/64** Washington- Lee H. Oswald's brother Robert has told a presidential commission that he thinks the alleged assassin may have been trained in the Soviet Union as an agent. [2/21]

He produced no evidence to support the theory. Under questioning by the commission, he did not press the idea and indeed retreated from it, indicating it was just an impression he had.

... When Lee Oswald was arrested 11/22 after the assassination, Robert visited him in jail. They were separated by a soundproof window and talked by telephone under police supervision.

Robert Oswald asked his brother then whether he had committed the crime. Lee denied it, and Robert Oswald told the commission that he believed the denial. But he said this without much force and said he had no basis for the belief except his brother's statement. *New York Times*, Anthony Lewis

[See Oswald file, 2/29/64.]

**2/22/64** Washington -- Lee Harvey Oswald's brother, Robert, completed three days of testimony today before the Warren Commission. [Only Commission member present today was Allen Dulles].

Asked about a story published today by the *New York Times* that Robert Oswald had told the commission he thought Lee may have been trained as an agent in the Soviet Union, Dulles said that had not been in the testimony. He denied that such a statement had been made.

Robert Oswald appeared with his lawyer, William A. McKenzie, who said in a statement to newsmen there were "irresponsible inaccuracies" in the [*New York Times*] story. [That Robert had thought Lee to have been trained as an Agent in Russia, and that he believed Lee's denial of the assassination. on 11/22].

One of these, McKenzie said, was the report of Lee's denial and Robert's believing it. "It is a false statement," said McKenzie. "It was not mentioned." *AP*, 6:16 p.m. EST

[See Oswald file, 5/29/64.]

**2/24/64**

... Commission sources said later that Mr. Warren's reference to "security" had nothing to do with talk of an alleged Communist plot against President Kennedy. Rather, they said, the Chief Justice had in mind such matters as details of how the FBI investigates a case. Such information, if released, would impair future FBI operations, according to the sources, and would not change the substance of the report anyway.

The critics, however, contend the withholding of even that material could be used to hide reported bad feeling between the FBI and the Secret Service. The agencies reportedly feuded over the way the investigation was handled, although government officials have denied the reports.

Since the FBI's documents are the commission's main source of information, the conclusions in them are expected to weigh heavily in the group's final report to President Johnson.

The commission's other main task is taking testimony from key witnesses – in effect "freezing" their stories under oath. Past experience has shown that otherwise witnesses often change their accounts as the years go by. The net effect is to cast doubt on previous findings. *U.S. News & World Report*, p. 52

**2/24/64**

... As for Oswald, the Commission has found that almost all the evidence points to him as the killer. But the panel is not expected to say so in so many words. The final verdict is to be left to the public. Reason: There is just no positive proof. ... *U. S. News & World Report*, p 52. *Back of the Secrecy in the Assassination Probe*.

**2/25/64**

Washington -- The president of the *American Bar Association*, Walter E. Craig, was appointed today to represent Lee Harvey Oswald.

The announcement by the presidential commission ... said two months of "marshalling the facts available have not caused the Commission to doubt the reasonableness of the action of the authorities in charging Oswald, but his guilt was not proven at a trial."

Thus ... "he did not have the opportunity to meet the accusation according to the American way of justice."

Craig, the commission said, will examine every facet of the case pointing toward the involvement of Oswald, "and in fairness to his family, advise the Commission in that regard so that it may not overlook any proper consideration in determining that the test of truth has been met in accordance with American principles of justice."

The commission said Craig, a Phoenix, AZ, lawyer, ... will have available to him all material available to the investigating group

and its staff and "no stone will be left unturned in faithfully reporting all the facts" surrounding the slaying. ... *AP*, 11:02 a.m. CST

Phoenix messages New York: Staffer Don Carson just met Craig at airport and attorney says he will not "represent" Oswald, but serve only as friend of the court. Withdrawing our story [on Craig personality] and Carson will offer new story clarifying Craig's role within the hour. *AP*, 11:57, p.m., MST

The Warren commission has reached out for as nationally known t lawyer to aid in its probe ...

It was in this capacity [as president of the *American Bar Association*] Craig said today, that the presidential Commission ... asked him to take over the task of overseeing the Commission's deliberations.

**2/26/64**

... The attorney said he will neither defend, represent nor protect the interests of the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. ...

"My function," Craig said, "is that of an independent agent, not connected with the government. I will observe the proceedings, look at the investigative procedure and see that it is complete, thorough and in accord a with the judicial process as we know it in this country."

... Craig s reputation was summed up in this way by Senator Carl Hayden, D-AZ, who suggested his appointment to the federal bench: "I know of no other lawyer in my state, or, as a matter of fact, in the nation, who enjoys greater respect among his colleagues. " *AP*, 3:58 a.m. MST

**2/26/64**

The Commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, explained the appointment [of Walter E. Craig] at some length in a statement. The reason indicated was that Oswald had been killed and would never be able to defend himself at a trial.

But the statement said the commission was not, by this action, casting doubt on Oswald's guilt. It said that two months of investigation had "not caused the commission to doubt the reasonableness of the action of the authorities in charging Oswald."

Mr. Craig, the commission said, will have the job of "examining every facet of the case pointing toward the involvement of Lee H. Oswald, in his absence, and in fairness to his family advise the commission in that regard."

... The decision to appoint a special lawyer for Oswald's interests represents a change of view on the commission's part. The panel had rejected proposals to have an outside counsel represent Oswald, saying that this was not an adversary proceeding but a neutral fact finding effort.

The statement, perhaps reflecting some recent criticism of the commission's performance, said the panel would "leave no stone



unturned in faithfully reporting all the facts surrounding the assassination." *New York Times*, Washington, [2/25]

**2/26/64** New York – Former Assemblyman Mark Lane ... said here yesterday that his “fullest cooperation” was available to Mr. [Walter E. Craig].

Mr. Lane said, however, that “the appointment of the president of the ultra-conservative *American Bar Association* may raise more questions than it resolves” in the light of past Commission statements. *New York Times*

[Also See 3/7/64, *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith.]

**2/27/64** Washington - As today's proceedings got under way, Warren announced that Washington attorneys Charles B. Murray and Charles S. Rhyne will be associated with Walter E. Craig ... as guardians of Oswald's interests before the investigating panel.

... Rhyne is a former president of the *Bar Association*. Murray is a former assistant attorney general and now director of the legal aid agency here, *AP*, 3:53 p.m. CST

**2/27/64** James Martin denied today that he has evidence that the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy planned to kill former vice president Richard M. Nixon. But the commission investigating the assassination said a published story quoting him' as making that claim is before the panel.

Martin, a Dallas, Tex., businessman who has been business agent for Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald, widow of the accused killer, entered his denial in talking with newsmen just before a three and a half hour session as a commission witness. After that Martin would not talk at all, on that subject or any other.

And Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency and member of the presidential commission, would only say:

"The commission has that before it - I don't want to make any other comment." ...

Martin was asked about a story in the *Houston Post* quoting him as saying he had evidence Oswald planned to shoot Nixon and had presented it to the investigating commission.

He said he only heard about the Nixon story yesterday, had no evidence to back it, and had not given any information about it to the commission.

... The *Post* said at the time Nixon urged Texans to provide a courteous reception for President Kennedy saying "over enthusiastic

opponents really harm their own cause and help their opponents by showing discourtesy."

... Nixon, in Minneapolis today, was asked for comment. He shrugged his shoulders and said, "What can you say?"

**2/27/64** On appointment to the commission of Walter Craig, to represent Oswald's interests:

Mark Lane told the *Guardian* that the appointment would not alter his own endeavors on Oswald's behalf. Lane noted that he had written to the commission in December urging that counsel be appointed for Oswald. "Since then," Lane said, "the commission had taken the position that no counsel was necessary because Oswald was not on trial. Now that the commission feels Oswald needs counsel during the second half of the inquiry, I suggest that he also needed it during the first half and now urge the commission to start proceedings from the beginning." *National Guardian*

**2/27/64** [Major excerpt from an address given by Staughton Lynd, professor of history at *Spelman College*, Atlanta, at *Guardian*-sponsored meeting 2/18 in Town Hall, N.Y., to inquire into the facts about the assassination of President Kennedy.] Skillful analysis of the factors supporting a spontaneous conspiracy of silence.

See also account of efforts to cancel meeting at Town Hall. [See Lane, 2/20/64] Speakers, in addition to Lynd, were Mark Lane; Marguerite Oswald; Jack Minnis; James Aronson, *Guardian* editor; David Haber of *Rutgers University*, chairman. *National Guardian, Is the Oswald inquiry America's Dreyfus case?*

**2/28/64** Buffalo, N.Y. – [Mark] Lane said ... he felt the Commission was conducting the investigation on a false premise: that, in fact, Oswald was the slayer. He said the commission should instead be attempting to ascertain who actually killed the President. *AP*, 2:21 a.m. CST

**3/64** The Warren Commission, though it has its own legal staff and the right to subpoena witnesses, will nevertheless depend for its technical information on the FBI investigation, and the results of that investigation, though officially still confidential, have already been revealed to the world - and revealed, apparently, before the Warren Commission even received the FBI report from the Justice Department. On 12/3 ... stories quoted anonymous "government sources", but the identity of these sources was no mystery at all in Washington: the FBI itself had leaked the "probable conclusions" of its report even while the report was still being written. Six days later, on 12/9, the Justice Department delivered the now completed report directly to the Warren Commission.

... just as the Dallas authorities had forced the hand of any jury that would have heard the Oswald case, so the FBI has forced the hand of the Warren Commission. *Commentary*, Leo Sauvage

**3/64** [Editorial questions Warren's statement that Marina's testimony might not be made known "in your lifetime," and his subsequent

explanation that he might have been speaking a little facetiously. Develops the argument that if secrecy continues it can only be to conceal a plot involving very powerful figures, and that the public should demand the facts promptly and, if not forthcoming, demand Warren's resignation.] *The Minority of One*, p. 2, *Mr. Warren's Prerogative?*

**3/2/64** Advertisement in the form of an open letter to Earl Warren, asking him to resign as Chairman of the commission. *Signed The Minority of One*, M.S. Arnoni, Editor.

.... These circumstances, Mr. Chief Justice. make us wonder whether there is accord between the public conception of your task and your own conception of it. It seems probable that you intend to make only such public disclosures about the investigation as would, in your opinion, serve the public interest. We, however, believe your task to be judicial, not political. We think your primary duty to be to discover the truth, whatever it is, about a tragic national event and to tell this truth to this generation.

... In a sense, it is immaterial how accurately the conjectures in this letter assess your motives. What is important is the fact that, after several of your public comments, it is no longer possible to be sure that yours will be the final truth about the assassination of President Kennedy. The frustration of possibly not learning the truth is revived. However strong may be your noble desire to act in the public interest, it can give us a feeling of being protected by you, not a certainty of being fully and correctly informed.

**3/5/64** Story on Lane's testimony before Warren commission. It s first public hearing, at his request.

... Chief justice Earl Warren, who heads to commission, opened the session at the commission's headquarters building by saying that Mr. Lane's request was thoroughly agreeable to the commission.

"The commission does not operate in a secret way," Mr. Warren said.

He asserted that the hearings had been limited to the "quiet of our rooms" because it was felt this would speed the hearings and avoid inconvenience.

"The purpose of this commission," Mr. Warren said, " Is to make known to the President and the American public all of the testimony we have received. All of it will be made available at an appropriate time."

[Story says Lane testified as to secret meeting 11/14 in *Carousel Club* between Tippit and Weissman and third man whom Lane would not name until Commission went into executive session after room cleared.

[Commission refused Lane's request to serve as serve Oswald's counsel with right to examine witnesses and have access to commission's documents.]

[Lane also told commission published photographs of Oswald holding rifle were obviously doctored" before being printed in newspapers and magazines.]

[Story also carries *Times'* recollection [after dash] that Weissman had denied he knew Tippit, Ruby or Oswald or had attended such a meeting]. *New York Times, UPI, Washington*

**3/7/64** According to the *New York Times* [8/11/62], [Waiter E.] Craig "describes himself as a conservative Democrat and is a good friend and supporter of Barry Goldwater, conservative Republican Senator from Arizona," the new counsel's home state. *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

**3/9/64** The windshield of the limousine in which President ... Kennedy was riding when he was shot-was brought today before the presidential commission ...

The windshield was carried to the hearing room wrapped in an olive drab blanket. Rep. Gerald Ford ... confirmed that it was from the President's car and had been brought into the hearing room.

Both he and Sen. John Sherman Cooper ... declined to answer questions about it. *AP*, 1:24 p.m. CST

[See 4/4/64, *National Guardian*]

**3/10/64** [Story on four witnesses before the Commission, including James Richard Worrell.]

Washington - Worrell said last week that he will tell the commission that he heard four shots fired when Kennedy was killed. ... Worrell also told the *Dallas Times Herald* he saw a man "run like a bat out of hell" from the rear entrance of *the Texas School Book Depository Building*. *AP*, 1:15 p.m. CST

**3/10/64** Washington - .... None of the witnesses would talk to reporters. [Robert H.] Jackson said they had been told before the hearing not to talk about their testimony. *AP*, 11:18 p.m. CST

**3/11/64** Washington - One of yesterday's witnesses said he had been told not to talk to reporters.

When newsmen asked Warren about the matter, he replied that the commission had put no restraint on the witnesses. *AP*, 6:15 p.m. CST Martha Cole

[See 6/29/64, *AP*, 11:11 p.m. EDT]

**3/19/64** Washington - A witness who has been giving detailed testimony about her personal recollections of Lee Harvey Oswald said today she now is convinced he tried to shoot retired Maj. General Edwin A. Walker last year.

Mrs. Michael Paine made the statement to reporters after completing her second day in closed session with the commission ...

Mrs. Paine said the investigators were particularly interested in her knowledge of Oswald's ability with a car because they wanted to determine whether he could have driven himself away after the unsuccessful attempt to shoot Walker. *AP*, 8:18 p.m. CST

**3/20/64** San Francisco, [3/18] ... [Walter E.] Craig, whom the commission designated 2/25 as an "independent lawyer" to work with it but not for it, said he was not representing the interests of Lee H. Oswald ...

When he was named to the post, it was indicated that his job would be to protect the interests of Oswald.

Mr. Craig's remarks ... were made at a press conference ... before a luncheon speech to members of *the San Francisco Bar Association*.

... At the press conference, he was pressed to define his assignment, which he said had been taken on the specific request of Chief Justice Warren.

Mr. Craig denied that he was representing Oswald. "We are representing the interest of the American people," he said.

He was asked why the Warren Commission, which represented the same interest, needed the assistance of himself and his group.

**3/21/64** "I don't care what anybody says," [Worrell] told newsmen 3/8, "I heard four shots." *National Guardian*

**3/21/64** [A] witness, 14-year-old Amos Euins [testified before commission 3/10/64] previously told reporters that he also saw a man running near the building. Just before the hearing, however, he told newsmen he could not talk to them because "a Secret Service man said I'd be in real trouble if I talked." *National Guardian* [3/10/64]

"They wanted an independent agency to review their actions," he said "We are that independent agency."

Mr. Craig said the review was designed to filter out any errors that might have cropped up in the commission's work. *New York Times*

**4/64** [Same letter that appeared in *New York Times* of 3/2/64, as a paid advertisement. Calls for Warren's resignation in order to enable a new investigative body to be set to get at the facts of the assassination].

P 4: The Investigation. [Argues that "we do NOT know who killed the late President ," that some self-consistent theories contradict others equally self-consistent and that the investigation must be "conducted by people whose character as well as conception of their task will guarantee that everything possible will be done to discover the truth."]

... All thoughts must be thought and all theories must be checked out, bur findings must be made on tae basis of evidence alone.  
*The Minority of One*, p 1, *An Open letter to Chief Justice Warren, etc.*

**4/3/64** Washington - Outside technical experts are being called in to double check FBI findings in the investigation of President Kennedy's slaying.

The special presidential commission investigating the assassination decided on the move to avoid possible future - claims that FBI findings might have been rigged or colored by self-interest, it was learned.

One expert, Joseph Nicol, superintendent of the Illinois Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, traveled to Philadelphia to use new police laboratory facilities there to make ballistics tests of bullet fragments and casings gathered at the scenes of the murders. [Story suggests ballistics tests include Tippit shooting, but *AP* story, datelined Philadelphia [4/4, 10:20 pcs] says "The two bullets that killed President John F. Kennedy were tested in the Philadelphia Crime Laboratory, it was disclosed today." *AP* quotes Dr. Edward J. Burke, director of the police laboratory, as saying the tests were made 3/24 and 3/25.]

... Nicol has declined to detail his findings other than to say that they did not change the picture as it is now known. *San Francisco Chronicle* [*Chicago Daily News*]

**4/4/64** "One of the main anxieties" in Washington, [Thomas] Buchanan reported, was "to discredit by all means" the testimony of ... Richard Dudman that there was a "small, round bullet hole" in the front windshield of President Kennedy's car. Other newsmen insisted that Dudman "must have been mistaken" but the windshield had been brought to the commission and taken away again under wraps, and the newsmen never got a look at it. *National Guardian*

[See 3/9/64, *AP* 124 pcs]

**4/4/64** Dallas - An investigator for the commission studying the assassination of President Kennedy was removed this week from the Dallas phase of the probe, the *Dallas Times Herald* said today.

The withdrawal of the unnamed investigator was attributed to a dispute between him and a Dallas police officer who was a key

witness in the Jack Ruby murder trial.

The officer, also unnamed, claimed in protests to District Attorney Henry Wade and other officials that the Warren Commission man had called him a "liar," among other things.

... Wade, prosecutor in Ruby's murder trial, mentioned the incident in a letter to J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the commission in Washington. *AP*, 11:29 p.m. CST

[see *AP*, 5/28/64, 10:45 ACS]

**4/6/64** Homework: Some, indeed, have already written off the Warren commission on the mistaken ground that it is limiting its inquiry to evidence already collected and digested by the FBI. The commission actually is going far beyond: it has summoned 40 key witnesses thus far to Washington, and dispatched a crew of its own staff lawyers to Dallas to take statements from perhaps 150 or more. "Our own investigation," says one member, "has been much more exhaustive than anything done by the FBI."

The commissioners are painfully aware of the doubters; some are tempted to offer rebuttals. But a proposal to release a preliminary digest of the FBI's report on the assassination was rejected three months ago, and the commission is under Presidential orders not to discuss the case until its report is in. Meantime, the commission has taken pains not only to collect its own firsthand evidence but to submit it to skeptical review even before the report is written. On its invitation, the *American Bar Association* has dispatched a rotating series of lawyers to look out for Oswald's interests ... *Newsweek*, p 22-24, *JFK's Murder: Sowers of Doubt*. [An account of various doubts and theories to date of the official version of the assassination].

**4/8/64** New Orleans - Investigators today completed their New Orleans probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

... Investigators questioned 21 persons yesterday and five others Monday. *AP*, 8:13 p.m. CST

**4/10/64** Dallas - Warren commission representatives in Dallas ended their phase of investigation yesterday and returned to Washington.

The team of attorneys questioned more than 200 persons since 3/19, including witnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy, the slayings of Lee Harvey Oswald and patrolman J. D. Tippit.

Two other attorneys from the Warren Commission are expected to arrive Tuesday for a different phase of investigation. *AP*, 6:14 am CST

**4/11/64** Washington - ... Most intriguing line of the commission's new inquiry concerns why ... Oswald lost more than half his hair during the two and one-half years he lived in the Soviet Union.

This unusual and unexplained change in Oswald's features was pointed out by his brother, Robert, when testifying ... before the Warren Commission ...

... To add to the unique mystery, Robert Oswald stressed that his brother, Lee, and Lee's wife, Marina, were reluctant to discuss the missing hair when questioned.

... The commission's staff is now consulting with government and private experts to determine if the loss of hair could have been caused by the use of new drugs, or by Oswald's being given the Pavlovian treatment.

It is common knowledge within the U.S. intelligence community that the Soviets have conducted experiments in the use of both methods to control the minds of humans since the late 1950s. *San Rafael Independent Journal*, Allen-Scott Report, Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott

**5/64** ... An *Associated Press* news item of 3/29/64, based on "knowledgeable sources," informs us that the Commission "is now convinced it has received most of the pertinent information;" that it is ready to start writing its report; that it "has found no evidence that the crime was anything but the irrational act of an individual ..."; and that it hopes that its report "will dispel any ... ideas" that the assassination was part of a political plot.

The day after that "leak" to the *Associated Press*, the commission heard the testimony of two physicians who attended the fatally wounded Mr. Kennedy; and it took yet another day before it had the benefit of testimony by experts in firearms and ballistics.

This reversed sequence in the Commission's procedure, of first making and announcing findings and then gathering evidence, has typified its work from the very beginning. No matter what the Commission's report, it will be impossible to read it without remembering this strange means by which it was prepared. The Commission's now-acknowledged hope to dispel anything is but the authorities' version of the assassination will be met by many people's awareness that that hope antedated the gathering of evidence and that it may be held despite the evidence. *The Minority of One*, p. 4, *A Verdict or Propaganda?*

**5/2/64** Columnist Roscoe Drummond reported 4/13 that "very earnest consideration is being given" by the investigating commission "to finding some way to postpone publication" of its final report until after the elections. "The feeling of some members of the commission is that, if the final report is as sternly critical of the security agencies of the government as they would like it to be, it may be misused in the campaign and its detachment marred by the partisanship," Drummond said. *National Guardian* [4/13]

**5/4/64** Washington - The commission has discussed [Thomas] Buchanan; indeed it has had some preliminary contact with him. But it has not yet decided whether to take the bold but obvious step of asking him to testify before it in open session. Perhaps that would be the most effective way to get at his accusations and, if they are indeed as faulty as they appear, put them to rest.



... Conspiracy theories die hard. No matter what the Warren Commission does, some will still choose to believe a conspiracy was involved. But the bulk of world opinion, both at home and abroad, probably is still open to conviction - provided the commission omits nothing and faces up in detail to every conceivable theory, however fantastic. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Chalmers M. Roberts *Times-Post Service*

**5/8/64** Published in London by *Seeker & Warburg*. *Who Killed Kennedy?*, Thomas G. Buchanan

**5/8/64** Dallas - Two members of the Warren Commission visited today the site of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

The commission members, Senator John Cooper ... and ... John J. McCloy, were accompanied by two Dallas Secret Service agents, a Warren commission investigator, an FBI inspector and a Secret Service inspector from Washington.

Later in the day a third commission member, ... Allen Dulles, joined the group. *AP*, 4:40 p.m. CST

**5/8/64** Washington - The Presidential Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination has hired as a consultant a leading member of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, according to Representative Ralph F. Beerman,, Republican of Nebraska.

Mr. Beerman said the consultant was "Prof. Norman Redlich, on the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee - cited by House and Senate committees as an organization 'to defend the cases of Communist lawbreakers.'" *New York Times*, *AP*

**5/9/64** [Discussion of widespread doubt throughout Europe, particularly in Russia, whether the Commission is pursuing every possible lead to get at the truth.] *Saturday Review*, p. 9, *Questions from Abroad*, by Henry Brandon.

**5/19/64** Washington - The Warren commission met for nearly three hours today and announced that it had "unanimously cleared all of the members of its staff to handle classified information."

Presumably, this was a clearance for consultant Norman Redlich, who has been accused by Republican members of Congress of having been a member of a Communist front group.

However, the statement issued by the commission did not mention Redlich. And J. Lee Rankin, the staff director, refused to answer any questions, even to say whether Redlich still held his job as \$100 a day consultant. *New York Times*, *AP* 9:25 p.m. EDT

**5/9/64** Mark Lane ... charged the Secret Service with deliberately planting a false story in the press ... According to Lane, the ...

falsification concerned an article in the 2/10 issue of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* ... "The story broke the same day Oswald's mother was to appear as the first witness on behalf of Lee Oswald. It was obviously calculated to prevent press coverage of any witness who was going to raise doubts about Oswald's guilt." *National Guardian*,

[Story given by Mike Howard, Secret Service, to Thayer Waldo, reporter for the *Star-Telegram*: a Negro janitor, looking out of a window on the same floor TSBD, heard first shot, saw Oswald and was prepared to identify him. *AP* account of *Star-Telegram* story filed 2/9, 813 to 1143 pcs.]

[See file, 2/13/64 - *AP* 131 aes, Sterling Green

**5/10/64** Dallas - A witness has told the Warren Commission that he saw a man with a rifle in a sixth floor window of the *Texas School Book Depository* 15 minutes before President Kennedy was assassinated.

The witness said the armed man he saw was at the southwest corner.

Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly fired the assassination bullets from the southeast corner window.

... Forrest Sorrels, Secret Service agent-in-charge of the Dallas office, confirmed that agents had questioned the witness on 11/22.

The witness was described as a 20-year-old part-time college student [ Arnold Louis Rowland?]. Sorrels said the man testified before the Warren Commission in March. *San Francisco Chronicle*, *AP*

**5/11/64** ... And he can be moved to tears by a call to patriotic duty. Lyndon Johnson did it, after Warren had turned down him emissaries - - Solicitor General Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach -- on the assassination-inquiry assignment. The President called Warren to the White House for a flag-swaddled variation on The Treatment. Warren left with a mist in his eyes and a new job on his hands. ... *Newsweek*, p. 24 et seq, *The Warren Court: Fateful Decade*.

**5/14/64** Washington - FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said today he believes the Warren commission's part in the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is "obviously nearing its end."

... The FBI's investigation still is open, and the FBI has supplied "many thousands" of individual investigation reports to the Warren group since its bulky initial report was filed, Hoover said.

"I anticipate that the investigation may be open for many years to come, even after the Warren commission issues its report," Hoover said. The thousands of additional reports resulted from tips and leads still coming to the FBI and from leads provided by the Warren commission itself, the FBI chief said, but he added:

"They have provided nothing new of substantial value in the investigation." *AP*, 1:38 p.m. CST

**5/24/64** Dallas – Federal agents spent seven hours tediously reconstructing today the Dallas motorcade scene in which President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

[For details, see 5/24 and 5/25.]

**5/24/64** [Story on Jones Harris of New York, his interest in the Altgens picture showing a man in the doorway who looks like Oswald, and his frustrations in trying to investigate it.]

[An account of how Commission was courteous and apparently cooperative until he referred to an article in *Commentary* which had been critical and raised questions. Harris is quoted as pointing out the Lovelady told him he was wearing a red-and-white striped shirt buttoned high at the neck on 11/22, whereas the picture shows a dark shirt buttoned low.

..."Why doesn't the FBI or the Warren Commission have Lovelady pose in the doorway and have Altgens take a picture from the same distance and with the same camera as on November 22."

Altgens, one of the very few witnesses who was close enough actually to see the President shot, is able to describe in minute detail what happened at that terrible moment. Yet, he has never been questioned by the FBI or the Warren Commission. ... *New York Herald Tribune*, p. 7, it us. *The Picture with a Life of Its Own*, by Dorn Bonafede

**5/27/64** Dallas – [From story on re-enactment of assassination:]

In addition to taking movies from [the sixth floor window], the *Times Herald* said FBI agents filmed similar angle shots from a grassy embankment just west of the building ... and from an adjacent triple underpass.

The Dallas newspaper reported these further details:

In the opinion of investigators, it would have been impossible for any one of the three bullets - the two that hit Kennedy or the one that struck the Governor - to have been fired from either of these points.

Looking through the gun-sight of the rifle used by the assassin and exact measurement of the angle from the window, plus the results of the official autopsies [six] and medical reports, leave no doubt the bullets were fired from the depository building. *AP*, 1:10 p.m. CST

**5/28/64**

Dallas - A re-enactment of the assassination of President Kennedy has proved that the bullets could have been fired only from the *Texas School Book Depository* building, *The Dallas Times Herald* said today.

The newspaper said that it had been informed by reliable sources that the Warren Commission's sole purpose in the re-enactment, last Sunday, was to prove this.

*The Times Herald* said the re-enactment had been prompted by continuing reports that the bullets last 11/22 came from either the triple underpass near Elm and Houston Streets or from a grassy knoll. *New York Times, UPI*

**5/29/64**

Dallas - Television station *KRLD* said today it has learned the Warren commission's report ... will show that the first bullet hit both the President and Texas Governor John Connally, and that the third shot went wild.

In a copyrighted story, *KRLD* said this information came from a highly placed source [close?] to the Warren commission following last Sunday's re-enactment of the assassination.

Previous thinking had been that the first bullet hit the President, the second hit the governor, and the third fatally wounded Mr. Kennedy.

*KRLD* said it also had learned the Commission's report, which it said was to be released in a few weeks, will show the following:

The first bullet entered the President's body slightly above the right collar bone and exited just to the left [*UPI story (San Francisco Chronicle), 5/30*] says - attributing to *KRLD-TV* - that the first bullet exited from the President's neck just to the right of the tie knot.] of the tie knot, then entered the body of Governor Connally just above the fifth rib.

The second bullet struck the President in the back of the head. The third bullet followed a much flatter trajectory than the first two, because the motorcade was moving down a sloping street, and it struck a manhole cover, then ricocheted off the curb and was never found. *AP*, 5:57 p.m. CST

{Also *New York Times*, 5/30}

**5/29/64**

Washington - The Warren Commission has begun writing its report to the nation on the slaying of President John F. Kennedy ...

... The investigation is known to have turned up no substantiation for - or to have actually rebutted or discredited - scores of the rumors and reports which flew around the world six months ago. These were among them:

That a published picture showed Oswald standing in the door of the building at the very moment the rifle shots came from the

sixth floor.

The man in the picture was Billy Lovelady of Dallas. He told Warren Commission agents he has 20 witnesses to verify his identity and position. *AP*, 10:33 p.m. EDT for 5/31

[See this 12/2/63, *AP* 7 p.m. CST

**5/30/64** Washington - ... A Commission spokesman, giving what he called the best speculation on the assassination, said yesterday that one bullet hit the President in the back slightly above the right collarbone and went right on through the lower neck, emerging in front. It may have gone on to hit Texas Governor John B. Connally.

Medical testimony to the Commission is that Mr. Kennedy would have had a good chance of recovering from this wound. But a second shot, in the President's head, was fatal.

The Commission's evidence indicates that there was a third shot that went wild and never hit any portion of the car [See Bullets, 12/23/63, *Newsweek*] in which President Kennedy was traveling. *San Francisco Chronicle*, from *New York Times*

**6/6/64** Story on "current version" of wounding of JFK and Connally, one bullet through both:

The commission released the new version of the bullet episode in what has now become characteristic fashion: a news leak, given this time to Dallas television station *KRLD*. The station also received exclusive rights to a photograph of the FBI re-enactment of the assassination, with a broken line indicating how the bullet entered both men. Judging from the picture, it appears impossible for the fragment to have "exited just to the left of the tie knot."

... The new version of the shooting ... can only have been divulged to the Dallas television station to prepare the American public as quietly as possible to accept what appears to be yet another rationalization before it is officially promulgated. *National Guardian*

**6/8/64** Dallas - Chief Justice Earl Warren spent more than three hours yesterday with condemned slayer Jack Ruby in the Dallas County Jail.

It is believed that Warren's visit with Ruby was unprecedented in that no chief justice ever before had visited a jail to take testimony from a prisoner. *San Francisco Chronicle*, *AP*

**6/8/64** ... On 5/24 investigators for the Warren Commission re-enacted the assassination, in Dallas, in order to prove, with photographs and other evidence, that the bullets fired at the President could have come only from the *Texas School Book Depository* building,

and not from in front of the car.

The *Dallas Times Herald* said the re-enactment proved conclusively that if the bullets had been fired from in front of the car they would have had to go through the limousine's windshield to hit either the President or Governor John Connally, who was wounded by one of the assassin's bullets. *U.S. News & World Report*, p. 39, postscript to interview with Japanese special agent Atsuyuki Sassa.

**6/8/64** ... The macabre re-enactment was vital to the official view that Oswald -- and Oswald alone --killed the President. *Newsweek*, p. 48. *Nightmare Revisited* --[account of re-enactment in Dallas by commission staff of the assassination.]

**6/9/64** Washington - The Warren Commission questioned today State Department officers about what they knew of Lee Harvey Oswald ...

There have been some allegations the State Department was soft in handling Oswald's case.

The State Department has said that it followed normal procedures. These procedures were explained to the Commission by Abram Chayes, the Department's legal adviser. *AP*, 10:31 p.m. EDT

**6/10/64** Washington - Abram Chayes, the State Department's top legal expert, has resigned to return to private legal practice. He cited "financial pressure that has built up" during his years of Government service as the reason. *AP*, 8:57 p.m. EDT

**6/11/64** Washington, [6/10] - Mr. Chayes's position is equal to that of Assistant Secretary of State ...

... The job pays \$20,000 a year. *New York Times*

**6/13/64** It is known that 10 persons have signed sworn depositions to the commission that they knew Oswald and Ruby to have been acquainted. The commission has said, however, that lie detector tests have proven the witnesses unreliable. Oddly, no action has been contemplated against the 10 whose sworn testimony would certainly merit such action if, indeed, they were lying.

Among the 10, according to the *Herald Tribune*, "were a Dallas attorney and a waitress who claimed she had once served Oswald and Ruby as they sat together in a restaurant. ..." *National Guardian*

**6/13/64** The President's Commission ... is striving to create the impression that it has not pre-judged Lee Oswald ...

After several months of intentionally leaking information to the press that it considered Oswald to have been the lone and unaided assassin ... the Commission is now taking pains to stress that it has not reached a conclusion and will not issue a verdict until its

own investigation is complete.

The purpose of this recent posture is undoubtedly to answer observers who have criticized the commission ... for prematurely assessing Oswald's alleged guilt while still continuing to investigate pertinent facts that conceivably could determine his innocence. *National Guardian*

**6/13/64** Criticism of Warren Commission, particularly of "leaks" by commission "spokesmen". *New Republic*, Murray Kempton

**6/15?/64** *Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?*", by Joachim Joesten; *Marzani & Munsell*. [*Marzani & Munsell* ... will release a book 6/5 .. by Joachim Joesten ... entitled *Oswald, Assassin or Fall Guy?* (*National Guardian*, 6/13/64; filed Guardian).]

**6/26/64** Here is how the Chief Justice happened to make this remark ["it might not be in your lifetime"]:

On 2/3 he told reporters that all the raw material used by the commission would be sent to the Archives Office for posterity.

However, some of this material includes reports which are classified. A newspaperman asked whether this material would be made public and Warren responded:

"Yes, there will come a time. But it might not be in your lifetime. I am not referring to anything especially. But there "may be some things that would involve security. These would be preserved but not made public."

The Chief Justice was not referring to the facts surrounding the assassination but to documents which take some time to de-classify. His remark was not published in proper context and was widely misconstrued.

"I could have kicked myself afterward for saying that," Warren said later. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Drew Pearson

**6/26/64** Dallas - A veteran Warren commission investigator has reappeared here for what may be the final stages of an effort to determine the complete facts for the group's report.

Leon Hubert, who has commuted between Dallas and Washington since the beginning of the investigation ... set up offices here again and interviewed eight persons. *AP*, 2:10 a.m. CST

**6/28/64** Dallas - .... Mrs. Marina Oswald's Dallas attorney, William A. McKenzie, said he had requested an official investigation of "leaks" of Warren commission evidence to the press, including what has been called a hand-written diary by Oswald.

The request was made to chief counsel J. Lee Rankin in a telephone conversation following publication of portions of the diary.

...

McKenzie issued a formal statement which said, in part, "Mrs. Marina Oswald has informed me that all of Lee Harvey Oswald's personal effects including his diary, books, cameras, clothes and pictures were turned over to or picked up by an official agency, either of the city, county or Federal Government. Those personal effects including the diary have been in the care and custody of Governmental or law enforcement agencies since immediately following his apprehension."

"I have been assured by Mr. J. Lee Rankin that the diary was not released by the Warren Commission. I have been further informed by a responsible member of the Dallas police department ... that the Dallas Police Department, the FBI, the U.S. Secret Service, the Dallas District Attorney's office, the U.S. Attorney General's Department and the Warren Commission had copies of the diary." *AP*, 2:21 am CST

**6/29/64** "The release and printing of the diary prior to the Commission's report by anyone else is an invasion of privacy including personal property and publishing rights that belong to Marina Oswald and her children," McKenzie said [yesterday]. *San Francisco Chronicle, UPI*

**6/29/64** Query, Dallas to Washington: Member asking if FBI or Warren - Commission taken any previous steps to investigate apparent leaks of testimony before the Commission ...

Answer, Washington to Dallas: Been no previous disclosure that Warren Commission investigating any apparent leaks of testimony before Commission. Rankin, asked today about publication of testimony of witness Nelson Delgado, said Delgado had right to copy of testimony he gave before commission, and commission assumes he made it public. Commission has no power over that. *AP*, 7:29 p.m. CST

**6/29/64** Washington - The Warren commission decided today to request the FBI to investigate the newspaper publication of the diary of Lee Harvey Oswald ...

The decision was announced by J. Lee Rankin ... who said the ... commission is seriously concerned by disclosure of the evidence He told reporters the commission has been advised that "the document was secured by the Dallas police and then turned over to the FBI along with many other documents."

The commission has been: advised also, he went on, that "the Dallas police were furnished copies of all the documents they turned over to the FBI." When asked whether the commission is concerned about leaks from the commission itself, he replied:

"We think we know that it was not the FBI or the commission." *AP*, Sterling F. Green, 11:11 p.m. EDT



- 6/29/64** Washington - ... [J. Lee] Rankin told reporters the commission ... wants the FBI to discover, if possible, "how [Oswald's] diary was obtained and whom it was obtained from." ...
- After Rankin's announcement, Jack B. Krueger, managing editor of the [*Dallas Morning*] *News*, said:
- "The Warren Commission has every right to make this request of the FBI. The FBI has a right to ask us what it will, under the proper conditions.
- "There are other rights involved, The American people have a right to know ... [and] the American press ... has an obligation to tell them. ..." *AP*, 11:11 p.m. EDT
- 6/29/64** Washington - ... In general witnesses before the commission can talk if they wish, officials have said. *AP*, 11:11, p.m. EDT
- 6/29/64** Washington - ... [J. Lee] Rankin said ... that the FBI is ... making all the investigation reports for the Commission. *AP*, 11:11 p.m. EDT
- 6/29/64** Krakow, Poland – [In reply to a question from a Polish student] U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said tonight Lee Harvey Oswald killed his brother, President John F. Kennedy, and "there is no question that he did it on his own and by himself." ... Aides said it was the first time [he] has spoken publicly about who killed his brother. *AP* 327 ped
- 6/30/64** ... The Attorney General is known to be fully acquainted with the findings Of the Warren Commission. *New York Times*
- [Also see Warren Report, Comment – 9/28. 9/29, 64; 8/1/66.]
- 6/30/64** Washington - Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry said in Chicago that his department did not release the Oswald diary. "To my knowledge," said Curry, "we do not have a copy of it. I certainly have not seen it."
- Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade said his office's only copy is locked in his office. *AP*, 6:11 am CST
- 6/30/64** London - Mark Lane ... left by plane for New York today to face the Warren Commission investigating the crime.
- ... Lane told a news conference yesterday:
- "We will never get the facts about President Kennedy's assassination from the Warren commission.
- "We don't know whether there was a conspiracy to kill the President but we know there has been a conspiracy since to conceal the

facts." *AP*, 7 a.m. CST

**7/64** The Warren Commission's report will soon be out. And even in what seems to be the last few weeks before its publication, it appears that the Commission continues to follow what has become its tradition of peculiar procedures. A *UPI* dispatch of 5/27 quoted the *Dallas Times Herald* to the effect that "it had been informed by reliable sources that the Warren Commission's sole purpose in re-enactment [of the assassination], last Sunday, was to prove" that the bullets which killed President Kennedy "could have been fired only from the *Texas School Book Depository Building*." And we had naively hoped that the re-enactment's sole purpose would be to establish whatever is the truth. *The Minority of One*, M. S. Arnoni, p. 4

**7/3/64** Dallas - FBI agents visited the newsroom of the *Dallas Morning News* about 30 minutes yesterday to begin their investigation of where the paper obtained Lee Harvey Oswald's diary.

The Warren Commission investigating President Kennedy's assassination asked for the FBI investigation. *AP*, 12:23 a.m. CST

**7/3/64** The Warren Commission has been asked by Attorney Melvin Belli to rebut statements by ... Mark Lane on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Belli, who was chief attorney for Jack Ruby ... made the request in a letter yesterday to Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Lane, according to Belli, "although a single, humble voice, has added immeasurably to the calumnies about the events by 'proving' the innocence of Oswald and inferring the existence of sinister forces that the American people have not been told about. "*San Francisco Chronicle*

**7/3/64** Washington - ... The commission questioned [Mark] Lane in open session yesterday. ...

In testimony he gave on 3/4, Lane talked of an interview he claimed to have had with Helen Markham, one of the witnesses to the murder of J. D. Tippit ...

The commission reopened that question by asking Lane if he had a tape recording of his talk with Mrs. Markham. Lane said he did, but refused to say who made it or when it was made, and refused to turn it over to the commission.

The questioning revealed that Mrs. Markham has told the commission she never talked to Lane. In obvious annoyance, Warren told the lawyer:

"Until you give us the corroboration that you say you have we have every reason to doubt the truthfulness of what you have told us."

Lane said he could not turn over the purported recording because of his "attorney-client relationship" with Mrs. [Marguerite] Oswald.

Warren asked: "What is the present attorney-client relationship that would prevent you from telling about the recording?"

Lane acknowledged that he had no present relationship but said he had conducted the interview in furtherance of his original relationship.

Lane also refused to give the name of an informant who, he said, told him about a meeting of Jack Ruby and others at the Carousel Club ... *AP*, 11:28 a.m. EDT; *New York Times*, 7/4

**7/3/64**

Washington [story on second appearance of Mark Lane before Warren commission] - [Lane] testified before the Commission in March and promised to give that panel additional information to verify statements he was making.

During the following weeks, the Commission tried to get Lane to pass the information on, but he did not. Then just as the Commission was preparing a subpoena for Lane, [he] left on a speaking trip to Europe.

The basis for contention between the Commission and Lane involves two things ... One is testimony Lane said he has on a tape ... from Mrs. Helen Markham in-Dallas. Just what that recording says was not clear, since Lane refused to answer detailed questions about it, telling the Commission only parts of it.

He said he could not divulge all of it because of his lawyer-client relationship. He claimed he took the tape in doing an investigation for Mrs. Marguerite Oswald ...

[Warren] told Lane that the Commission had paid Lane's way back from Europe and that "we are trying to get information in these things that you consider vital."

Warren, visibly restraining himself ... then told Lane that "you handicap us greatly because of the things you say when you are away, then refuse to tell us."

Warren also asked Lane if he was being paid for the speeches. Lane said that at three or four meetings money had been taken but it went to the *Citizens Committee of Inquiry* and for a secretary.

... In the case of Mrs. Markham, Warren said that the Dallas woman had contradicted Lane's testimony about what she told Lane.

In addition, Lane in March had talked of a meeting in Mack Ruby's club ... but continued Thursday to refuse to say who his informant is. *Dallas Morning News*, Mike Quinn, Washington bureau

**7/7/64** Police said today they are still looking for a thief who broke into the *Sheraton Park Hotel* apartment of Chief Justice and Mrs. Earl Warren early Sunday.

The thief fled when Mrs. Warren awoke, police se said. No valuables were reported missing. *AP A89wx 616aed* Washington

**7/8/64** [No dateline.] - Mark Lane asked yesterday that his testimony before the Warren Commission be sent to the Attorney General's office "for prosecution for perjury" so that he might be allowed to prove "the absolute accuracy of my testimony."

... Yesterday, the lawyer said in a statement that "I shall play the tape recording during this month at a public meeting to which members of the press and members of the Commission will be invited." He did not give the time or place of the meeting.

He also said that he had told the Commission that "if I am informed no prosecution will result, I will make the recording available to them." He said the Commission had not responded, "indicating that it is they who are seeking to suppress the facts and the tape recording, not I." *New York Times*

**7/20/64** A tape recording dealing with the killing of J. D. Tippit ...was broadcast last night by Station *WMCA* ...

The tape allegedly records remarks by Mrs. Helen Louise Markham of Dallas. She made statements that allegedly indicated that the patrolman's killer might not have been Lee H. Oswald ...

The tape had been in the possession of Mr. Lane. He said he had mailed it to the Warren Commission. Previously Mr. Lane had declined to release the tape to the panel.

Mr. Lane said in introducing the tape on the air:

"One could hardly think of a description that differed more from Oswald than the description given by Mrs. Markham, the one eyewitness to the murder of Tippit." *New York Times*

**7/22/64** Dallas - A Dallas woman has told police she has received several anonymous telephone calls since being informed [7/18] that the ... Commission wanted a deposition from her.

The woman declined to discuss the matter with newsmen, saying she had been told "not to discuss it with anybody." FBI agents reportedly interviewed the woman.

... Names of persons who are to give depositions to the Commission are not disclosed in advance.

9:10 pm CST - An airline employee's wife [Mrs. James M. Tice] said today she was warned by an anonymous telephone called "To keep your mouth shut" when she appeared before the Warren Commission.

... The last call came Tuesday [7/21], Mrs. Tice said, but she did not call Dallas police until early Wednesday when she reported a prowler at her home.

The woman told police that shortly after 2 a.m. *AP*, 6:28 p.m. CST

Wednesday, she answered her front door bell but found nobody there. The door had been tampered with, she said, because it had been locked from the outside. She said she then found her back door barricaded with a ladder.

Earlier, radio station *WFAA* identified Mrs. Tice as the woman who told newsmen soon after the assassination that she saw Jack Ruby weeping at *Parkland Hospital* when President Kennedy was pronounced dead there. [See testimony of Seth Kantor, and Kanto Exhibit No.s 7 & 8.] She said he sobbed out an offer to donate a kidney to Texas Gov. John Connally ... if it were needed.

Mrs. Tice said she was determined to keep her appointment Friday [July 24] with [Commission investigators] ... *AP*, 6:28 p.m. CST

**7/23/64** ... Mrs. Tice ... told police she received two calls after the threat, but that the caller hung up each time she answered. *AP*, 2:24 am CST

**7/23/64** Warren Reynolds, used car salesman who chased the man fleeing from Tippit slaying and later was shot through the head by an unidentified gunman, testifies before Warren Commission attorney Leslie J. Liebeler. *AP*, Dallas, 338pes

[Also see 2/23/64 *San Francisco Chronicle*]

**8/3/64** *Evening Star* says Warren Commission will devote much of its report to rebutting speculation that assassination resulted from either a domestic or international conspiracy.

Says report now runs 660 pages, plus 18 volumes of transcripts of testimony and depositions from witnesses. *AP* Washington

**8/5/64** A foot-long section of curbing, believed to hold the markings of a stray bullet fired during the assassination, was removed today and sent to the Warren Commission in Washington. Was removed from the south side of Main Street near the triple underpass;

Main is the middle of three streets which converge at the underpass. Elm, the northernmost of the three streets, was the route of the JPK motorcade. *AP Dallas*

**8/8/64** Several reasons have been given to the press for the delay [in publication of the Report] .... It seems likely that the actual reason is that every time the investigation group is convinced that it has all the information necessary to proclaim that Oswald was the "lone and unaided assassin" - as an FBI report declared days after the slaying - new information is uncovered tending to dispute this hypothesis. *National Guardian*

**8/11-12/64** Warren Commission spokesman says Warren Commission considering releasing report by contract with information media with proviso entire report be published without breaking release time. When asked whether a matter of such "grave national import" could be involved in negotiations with private concerns, J. Lee Rankin deferred to White House, where press Secretary George Reedy said no decision been reached how to release.

*AP* president Paul Miller and *ASNE* president Miles H. Wolff said they opposed anything but simultaneous release to all media. *AP Washington*

**8/14/64** Chief Justice Earl Warren refused comment today when asked when report would be made public. There have been reports of release about 9/14, although uncertain. *AP Washington*

**8/18/64** *AP* wire note, New York to Washington, advising that *Times* [and *Herald Tribune*] say Warren Commission much upset over Dorothy Kilgallen story in *Journal American* prematurely using Ruby's testimony to Warren Commission. Quotes Warren Commission employee [unnamed] as saying story appears to contain verbatim testimony and Commission has given it to no newspaper and has no idea how it got out.

[See also Ruby file, *San Francisco Examiner* 8/ 19, 20, 21/64

**8/19/64** Pickup of *Journal American* story by Dorothy Kilgallen using excerpts of Ruby testimony to Warren Commission 6/7. Ruby said shooting Oswald all his own idea etc. *AP New York*

[See also Ruby file, *San Francisco Examiner*, 8/19, 20, 21/64same ref.]

**8/19/64** Story on interview of Ruby by Warren on 6/7.

Miss Kilgallen said she obtained the transcript from "sources close to the Warren Commission in Washington." From the transcript, it seemed to her that Warren and J. Lee Rankin were "acutely aware of the talk both here and in Europe that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy." *San Francisco Examiner*, Dorothy Kilgallen

[Miss Kilgallen's transcript of the interview filed Ruby.]

**8/19/64** Officials of the Warren Commission expressed distress today at the publication of testimony supposedly held for the group's forthcoming report [referring to transcript of Warren interview of Ruby in Dallas, made public by Dorothy Kilgallen].

.... A Commission employee said that on superficial examination the article did appear to contain the verbatim testimony. He said that the Commission had given it to no newspaper and that it had no idea how the transcript had gotten out. *New York Times*, Washington, 8/18

**9/64** The official version of the assassination of President Kennedy has been so riddled with contradictions that it has been abandoned and rewritten no less than three times.

Blatant fabrications have received very widespread coverage by the mass media, but denials of these same lies have gone unpublished. Photographs, evidence and affidavits have been doctored out of recognition. Some of the most important aspects of the case against Lee Harvey Oswald have been completely blacked out. Meanwhile, the FBI, the police and the Secret Service have tried to silence key witnesses or instruct them what evidence to give. Others involved have disappeared or died in extraordinary circumstances.

It is facts such as these that demand attention, and which the Warren Commission should have regarded as vital. *The Minority of One, 16 Questions on the Assassination*, Bertrand Russell, p. 5

**8/28/64** Dr. Revilo P. Oliver, national council member of the *John Birch Society*, said the Warren Commission's report will be "as complete a whitewash as [chief justice] Earl Warren can get away with."

Said Warren Commission is illegal and unconstitutional and only the House Committee on Un-American Activities or the Senate Internal Security subcommittee had the legal right to investigate. *AP Los Angeles*

**8/29/64** Letter to the editor, signed Robert Arnow, New York.

The Kennedy assassination may well have been this country's Reichstag fire. ...

... The American people are traditionally resistant to acceptance of the likelihood of conspiracies [from the right], preferring such psychological explanations as that of the crime being the work of one unstable man. But the contradictions in the official version are too glaring to stick. Blood is more durable than whitewash. The growing international demands [including those of Russell and Sartre] for an honest investigation will cause the biggest backfire in U.S. history, leaving the most sacred faces in our

government dirty with the smoke of the explosion. *National Guardian*

**8/29/64** Story on series of articles by Dorothy Kilgallen, on Warren's questioning of Ruby on 6/7/64 in Dallas.

[Mark Lane had informed the Commission months before of the Ruby-Tippit-Weissman meeting at the *Carousel*.]

Yet throughout the three hours of testimony, Justice Warren permitted Ruby to ramble, twist and dodge and never answer directly the questions whether he knew Tippit or had been with him at the *Carousel* that night. Even more bizarre, Justice Warren added a fourth man to the table, "a rich Texas oil man," whom Lane says he never mentioned. Significant was Ruby's reply to Warren's question. "Who was the rich oil man?" Ruby replied. He never admitted the meeting took place; he never denied it. *National Guardian*

**8/29/64** Note on Warren's questioning of Ruby, who "seemed far more terrified of ending up a victim of ... alleged plotters than of the electric chair":

Justice Warren took the whole agitated outburst in stride and consulted his watch to note that it would soon be time for lunch. *National Guardian*

**9/64** In the name of national security, the Commission's hearings were held in secret, thereby continuing the policy which has marked the entire course of the case. ... If, as we are told, Oswald was the lone assassin, where is the issue of national security? Indeed, precisely the same question must be put here as was posed in France during the Dreyfus case: If the Government is so certain of its case, why has it conducted all its inquiries in the strictest secrecy? *The Minority of One, 16 Questions on the Assassination*, Bertrand Russell, p. 6

**9/64** At the outset the Commission appointed six panels through which it would conduct its inquiry. [Panels listed by title.] Why did the Warren Commission not establish a panel to deal with the question of who killed President Kennedy? *The Minority of One, 16 Questions on the Assassination*, Bertrand Russell, p. 6

**9/4/64** Three Warren Commission members, Cooper, Russell and Boggs, flying to Dallas tomorrow to question Marina again, Commission already questioned her twice here.

Cooper said that after reviewing Mrs. Oswald's testimony there were a number of additional questions he wanted to ask her about her background and associations. *AP Washington*

**9/6/64** Account of visit to Dallas by Russell, Cooper and Boggs. Evasive replies to questions about Marina's fresh testimony. The trio retraces most of the action scenes. *AP Dallas*



- 9/7/64** Senator Russell hints of possible surprises in final report.
- "The case is not quite so simple as it appeared to the general public," Russell said. "There will be a good deal to consider."
- Interviewed Marina at Dallas Naval Air Station. *San Francisco Chronicle, UPI, Dallas*
- 9/10/64** Warren Commission still working secretly for third consecutive day drafting report.
- Took deposition yesterday from Revile P. Oliver, classics professor at the University of Illinois who is a member of the governing board of the *John Birch Society*. He claims the assassination was due to a communist conspiracy. *AP Washington*
- 9/12/64** Warren said today it's "A good bet" report will be sent to the President next week.
- Some surprises, but no substantial evidence to dispute earlier findings of federal agents that Oswald shot Kennedy alone and Ruby acted alone in shooting Oswald.
- Commission members working daily until midnight and many staff members until 3 and 4 a.m.
- Warren said work now mainly editing and checking thousands of footnotes.
- But another Commission member hinted that the word "editing" could be broadly interpreted.
- "We're still writing, " he said. *New York Times UPI* version, same date, appears from same briefing. *AP Washington, Sterling F.Green*
- 9/13/64** Bertrand Russell, in pamphlet published by *Citizens Committee of Inquiry*," poses 16 questions questioning Oswald's guilt.
- Says Warren Commission not representative of the people and because of their connections with the government the members would not have been allowed to sit on a jury trying Oswald. *San Francisco Chronicle, UPI New York*
- 9/13/64** List of 25 questions which Warren Commission may be expected to answer in *Warren Report*, compiled from questions posed by critics on both sides. Questions are compound, and represent far more than 25 individual questions. *New York Herald Tribune -- Will Warren Report Answer These Unanswered Questions*
- 9/14/64** ... Regarding the manner as well as the object of the probe, the Commission was entirely clear at the start: it was to be an investigation, not a trial. There was no problem of protecting the rights of any person living or dead, for the Commission was

unconcerned with accusing or with finding anyone "guilty." ... Under its "investigation" concept, the Commission had no trouble at all in dealing with ... Mark Lane. ... A few weeks later, in early February, the ... Commission took the testimony of Oswald's widow as the first witness, followed by testimony from his mother and brother. Then suddenly, on 2/24, the Commission did a turnabout and appointed Walter E. Craig ... as an "independent lawyer" to protect Oswald's interests. ... There is no doubt that [this] decision ... signaled a drastic change of view by the Commission. It must also be true that the shift came in response to some very powerful force, for it was a serious matter for the Commission to alter its position after weeks of investigations. ... The intriguing question is: Why?

... In my opinion the force that caused the reversal was the subtle but potent pressure of the tradition of adversary trial and due process on the Commission's conscience. As dozens of witnesses took the stand, ... the lawyers must have become increasingly aware that "truth" was emerging in a way that to them was at once unaccustomed and uncomfortable. ... The truth the law seeks and that lawyers battle for in the courtroom is a very different thing from the reporter's idea of truth. In a criminal case [the law] wants to protect the accused in a variety of ways, some of which are constitutional imperatives and others of which are merely well-established common-law procedures. ... And so came the shift in direction - from the search for investigator's truth to the search for courtroom truth. *The Nation, The Warren Commission, Maurice Rosenberg, p. 110*

**9/22/64** The Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy will be unfolded to the world next weekend. *AP Washington*

**9/22/64** Release plans for Warren Report. *AP Washington*

[Also see confidential wire note to editors regarding wire movement.]

**9/23/64** Further confidential wire notes to editors regarding wire movement and sales of *AP* version of the report.

**9/24/64** The seven members of the Warren Commission present to President Johnson today the completed report on their investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. *AP Washington, Sterling F. Green*

**9/24/64** Soberly, almost wordlessly, the Warren Commission gave President Johnson Thursday "the truth as far as it can be discovered" about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

...."It s pretty heavy," said Johnson. The 73-year-old chief justice nodded. There were a few more murmured words that reporters didn't catch, and that was all there was to the long awaited windup of the undertaking.

... He [Warren] has taken the position that, although federal agents will continue to trace down every new lead ... the Commission will not involve itself in any follow-up or supplemental investigations ...

- 9/26/64** Nation awaits release of *Warren Report*.  
... With the submission of its report, the special Commission goes out of existence. Any further investigations will be in the hands of permanent agencies. *AP* Washington, 106ped, Lewis Hawkins
- 9/26/64** Chief justice loses his temper. ... Earl Warren had not one word of comment [on the report] ... Asked at San Francisco airport how leaks on Warren Commission's work got out, he replied only "the report is closed." Same reply to all other questions, even to one as to whether he still a Republican. After walking through airport terminal he shook hands with reporters and said he was sorry if he had been short with them.
- 9/26/64** Probably not altogether, but ... "the best argument against the various conspiracy theories is that these suspicions have not been borne out by subsequent events."  
  
Points to no changes in domestic or foreign policies while LBJ administration effected smooth transition from JFK administration. *New York Journal American* [*Times-Post Service*]. Murray Marder Washington -- *Can Warren Report End Suspicion?*
- 9/26/64** Why have witnesses with testimony not in agreement with the government position been informed to keep silent by the FBI, while the government itself has constantly disclosed throughout the investigation any evidence that tended to prove Oswald guilty?  
*National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith
- 9/27/64** The seven men entrusted with investigating President John F. Kennedy's assassination represent both political parties, the three branches of government, and both Houses of Congress. *AP* Washington, *Personalities in the News. The Warren Commission*.
- 9/28/64** As the Warren Commission closed up shop, another presidential panel sprang to life. Its jobs to keep tab on the Commission's recommendations. [Dillon, Katzenbach, McCone, and McGeorge Bundy.], *AP* Washington, Barry Schweid
- 9/28/64** All the working papers, reports, hearing transcripts and exhibits of the Warren Commission will be preserved in the National Archives. ... *AP* Washington  
  
[Also see *San Francisco News Call Bulletin*, same date.]
- 9/29/64** A description of the Warren Commission staff, its personnel, the long hours worked, etc. *Washington Post*, Jerry Kluttz, *The Federal Diary*

- 9/29/64** How Warren worked overtime nine months on the Commission's task. How he didn't want to take the job, was rebuked by court colleagues when he did, but was persuaded nevertheless by LBJ to do it "as a soldier for his country."
- ... It was a grueling, thankless job. And now that it is done, and the critics begin pulling the report apart, it will be more thankless than ever. Washington Post, Drew Pearson, *Inquiry a Sacrifice for Warren*.
- 9/29/64** Chief justice Earl Warren paid a visit to his old office in California's capitol Tuesday, and said he is relieved that the investigation ... is over.
- "This has been a long and depressing job," Warren told a reporter. ...
- "This has been a tough thing, living with this thing for 10 months -- along with my other work." *AP Sacramento*
- 10/2/64** Washington – Senator Russell calls Marina baffling personality, cites contradictions in her testimony which she blamed on linguistic misunderstandings, but he also notes changes in her attitude. Says Commission's report will not end debate on the assassination which will continue a hundred years or longer.
- Principal contradiction cited concerns Governor Connally and whether Lee disliked him and was shooting at him instead of JFK. *AP 142aed*
- 10/3/64** Were Oswald permitted to live to face trial, not a single member of the Commission would be permitted to serve as a juror on that trial. Defense counsel would have had reason for removing each of them. ... Here, ... a new and strange principle of law was enunciated. Instead of defense counsel participating in the selection of the "jury" to try Oswald, the "jury" or Commission then denied Oswald the right to counsel ... Representatives of the accused were not permitted to be confronted with the evidence against Oswald. No one representing Oswald was permitted to present an affirmative defense on his behalf ... *National Guardian*
- 10/30/64** ... said it did not "reflect credit" on the legal profession when prisoners with meritorious defenses had to write petitions to the Supreme Court in their own handwriting from their cells. *New York Times Boston -- Warren Critical of Bar for Shunning Unpopular Causes*.
- 11/24/64** From story on Ruby's lie detector test in Dallas County jail 7/18/64: Commission testimony disclosed ... that Warren was allowed to talk to Ruby alone. *AP 726 acs, Anthony Catella*
- 12/5/64** In a debate with Mark Lane in Los Angeles on 12/5/64, Joseph A. Ball, counsel for the Warren Commission, described Helen Markham [witness to Tippit shooting] as "an utter screwball." Lane pointed out that, based upon Ball's interrogation of Mrs. Markham, the Commission concluded that her testimony was "reliable" [page 168 of *Report*]. *Newsletter, Citizens' Committee of*

*Inquiry*

- 12/7/64** None too gentle resume of the bureau's and Hoover's history, pegged to J. Edgar Hoover's blasts at the Warren Commission and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ... Though he is notoriously thin-skinned to any criticism, Hoover's grievance lay even deeper. He thought the Warren Commission should have been the Hoover Commission -- a fitting capstone to a distinguished career. Hoover himself suggested as much to President Johnson ... *Newsweek*, . *J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI*, p. 21
- 12/19/64** Gerald R. Ford, Jr., - background. *AP*
- 12/28/64** Extract from an exchange between Senator Russell and Marina during her testimony, indicating his sarcasm and skepticism and her evasive reply. *New York Times* Washington
- 1/5/65** John H. McCloy, chairman of the President's advisory board of disarmament, urged today that the United States make a greater effort in Viet Nam. *AP* Philadelphia
- 3/28/65** The government has allocated to date \$1 million for the investigation and report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
- [Also see in *Warren Report* file:  
9/28/64, *AP* 758aed and San Francisco NCB  
9/29/64, *Dallas Times Herald*  
12/17/64, *AP* 1157pes  
1/16/65, *National Guardian*, quoting *New York Herald Tribune* [no date given] *AP* Washington
- 5/65** Favorable evaluation of Commission's work and the procedures used; comparison with similar inquiries in Britain.
- p. 404 - It has not been generally realized that the Warren Commission was novel in character and in purpose. ... Little attention has been directed to the possibility that a new and more satisfactory system of investigation has been found than ever existed in the past. ... A similar procedure might be applied successfully to lesser investigations in the future.
- p. 406 - The fact that the Chief Justice of the United States presided, that all the evidence has been published, and that nothing was found which could support even the possibilities of a conspiracy, provided a complete answer to any suspicions. *New York University Law Review*, *The Warren Commission from the Procedural Standpoint*, Arthur L. Goodhart

- 5/65 The importance of [Marina] Oswald's evidence has not been sufficiently realized. In an article *entitled A Lawyer's Notes on the Warren Commission Report*, Mrs. Alfreda Scobey wrote: "The fact is inescapable that the report, although crammed with facts that would not be admissible on the trial of a criminal case, sets out the whole picture in a perspective a criminal trial could never achieve." It has sometimes been suggested that if Oswald had lived and could have been tried, a truer picture of the facts would have been established than was that achieved by the Commission. Mrs. Scobey has, however, pointed out that the opposite is probably the truth, because if Oswald had lived his wife could not have given evidence at his trial. [Under Texas law, "The husband and wife may, in all criminal actions, be witnesses for each other; but they shall in no case testify against each other except in a criminal prosecution for an offense committed by one against the other." [Alfreda Scobey: *A Lawyer's Notes on the Warren Commission Report. American Bar Association Journal*, 1/65.] She would not have been able to testify concerning his ownership of the rifle from which the shots were fired, she could not have identified the blue jacket and the white jacket which were material in regard to which were material in regard to the murder of Patrolman J. D. Tippit, she could not have given evidence concerning the abortive plan to kill General Walker, and she could not have identified various material photographs. Above all, she could not have given evidence concerning possible motives that might have induced Oswald to assassinate the President. *New York University Law Review*, Arthur L. Goodhart, p. 407
- 5/65 It is not entirely clear why the Commission, having [denied Mark Lane permission to represent Oswald], then requested Mr. Walter E. Craig ... to participate in the investigation. ... The Commission probably felt that the appointment of Mr. Craig was an additional guaranty that every possible step had been taken to ascertain the truth. *New York University Law Review*, Arthur L. Goodhart, p. 409
- 5/65 The Commission was faced with the task of ascertaining a negative, which requires far more proof than does a positive conclusion. ... Perhaps it was the negative character of much of [the] evidence which led in part to the Commission's decision ... to hold the hearings in private unless a witness asked for a public one. If it had seemed probable that the evidence would lead to a positive conclusion in regard to a conspiracy, or that someone besides Oswald had independently taken part in killing the President, there would have been stronger reasons for calling attention to the evidence at a public hearing as this would have enabled the public to judge how much weight should be given to it. *New York University Law Review*, Arthur L. Goodhart, p. 422
- 5/65 Comparison of Warren Commission procedures with those of conventional court, with suggestions for improvements in setting up such a Commission.
- p. 453 - It can be granted that the common law machinery, per se, is completely unsuitable to a task of the type given to the Warren Commission and that it was a blessing not to have exclusionary rules of evidence and disruptive displays by opposing counsel blocking the Commission from its goal. But are the essential principles of common law procedure - cross-examination, critical comment and challenge, separation of functions, cross-sectional perspective and detached review - unsuitable products of accidental historical development? They may well reflect the forces of inarticulate reason and sound judgment shaping the fact-finding process through centuries of clinical experience. ...

p. 465 - In the years ahead it is not unlikely that other questions of overriding importance will create a task which transcends the capability, or suitability, of existing fact-finding or adjudicative agencies. When such a need arises the morphology and modus operandi of the Warren should be known.

Whether it is sound or not to enact legislation for a standby machinery, some of the principles of common law procedure may still lend themselves to an improvement of the next similar fact-finding body. *New York University Law Review, The Warren Commission and the fourth shot: a reflection on the fundamentals of forensic fact-finding*, Paul L. Freese

**5/65**

p. 426 - The fourth shot in Dallas on the fateful weekend relieved the nation of its commitment to history. Perhaps many responsible officials found a deep sense of relief in the knowledge that now the problem of Oswald's involvement, his motives, and the questions of complicity would not be subject to the jurisdictional claims of the ancient, perhaps antiquated, adjudicative machinery of the common law.

p. 432 - It is not the liar or corrupted fact-finder who has absorbed the attention of the common law or induced the subtleties of its adversary procedures. Rather, it is the recognition that men of good will, of education, of good judgment, will unknowingly yield to error or give color to the truth if not harnessed by appropriate checks and balances. *New York University Law Review*, Paul L. Freese

**5/65**

With Oswald dead, the Commission did not have to be concerned about interference with the rights of an accused. Moreover, the death of Oswald allowed resort to evidence which otherwise would have been challenged under other protective evidentiary rules and privileges.

[Footnote cites Alfredda Scobey, *American Bar Association Journal*, 1/65, with the comment: "This article summarizes many of the evidentiary problems which, because of Oswald's death, the Commission could circumvent *New York University Law Review, The Warren Commission and the fourth shot: a reflection on the fundamentals of forensic fact-finding*, Paul L. Freese, p. 427

**5/65**

Paraphrase: Since motorcade route past Depository Building was not indicated publicly until 11/15 or 11/16, any conspiracy involving Oswald would have had to have been planned during the week preceding the assassination. The investigation "would then have" centered on his activities and contacts during this period, and might have provided leads or clues to "agencies or groups" whose activities during the same period should have been placed under close scrutiny. "Lord Devlin ... has already noted the apparent failure to place Oswald's activities during this week under special scrutiny."

In Ruby's case, "the Commission claims it tried 'to reconstruct as precisely as possible the movements of Jack Ruby during the period November 21- November 24, 1963 ... on the premise that, if Jack Ruby were involved in a conspiracy, his activities and associations during this period, would, in some way, have reflected the conspiratorial relationship.'"

p.438 - It should be noted that Oswald's trip to [Mexico] in September, following the announcement of the Presidential visit, did receive extensive attention by the investigative agencies in order to determine whether his contacts in that area were related to a conspiracy. *New York University Law Review*, Paul L. Freese

**5/65** Discussion of testimony by Arnold Rowland, who said he saw a second man at southeast corner window, sixth floor, *Texas School Book Depository*, and efforts by Commission to discredit him.

The Commission, in handling Mrs. Rowland, betrayed a desire to discredit her husband rather than confront the implications of his testimony. ... The investigative approach followed after Rowland's disclosure was incomplete and the resort to impeachment of character smacks of a prosecutor's approach rather than that of one committed to the ascertainment of truth.

p. 452 - The treatment of Rowland and the investigation of accomplices at the scene is only a narrow slice of the Warren Commission's work. Whether it is representative or not, in certain aspects it is symptomatic of a bias to defend a conclusion previously made. *New York University Law Review*, Paul L. Freese, pp. 438-451

**5/65** As the arbiter of its own procedures, and without any responsible agency or party critically examining its investigative hypotheses or its method of handling witnesses, the Commission was by design made susceptible to error through following any bias existing or developed by its own investigation. And, in the investigation of possible accomplices at the scene, there is evidence that it was a victim of its own bias. It was a victim not in the sense that it failed to find the truth, but in the sense that it blinded itself from making the complete effort and assessment it otherwise attempted on all significant questions. *New York University Law Review*, Paul L. Freese, p. 453

**5/65** The real task of the Warren Commission, however, was not to find the truth but to appear to have found the truth to the satisfaction of the largest possible number of people here and abroad. Despite the eminence of its members, the talents of its staff, and the prodigious factual development of its efforts, it would not escape the necessity of having been created for this assignment. *New York University Law Review*, Paul L. Freese, p. 459

**5/65** Author discusses validity of Commission's investigation; questions whether, if tested, this would be found constitutional.

... Having explored briefly the nature of the executive power to investigate and the limits which the Constitution places upon that power, we now turn to the question whether the Warren Commission was, in fact, conducting the kind of investigation that meets the constitutional tests laid down by the Court. ... Oddly enough, there is no official statement explaining or discussing the relationship between the purposes being pursued by the Warren Commission and the constitutional power being relied on to achieve those purposes.

... The executive order and the Commission's own report indicate that satisfying the public as to the guilt of Oswald was the



primary purpose of the Commission.

... Almost without exception, [the] preliminary statement announced [to witnesses] that the Commission's purpose was to ascertain, evaluate, and report the facts relevant to the death of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, a phraseology much too broad to show pertinence to a legitimate purpose.

... To this writer the conclusion seems irresistible that the investigation went far beyond any constitutional governmental purposes, and thus was exposure solely for the sake of exposure.

... The Warren Commission [used] governmental power, and hence [posed] potentially justiciable issues. Although the Commission did not have to use its subpoena power, it does not follow that the testimony was wholly voluntary and free from official coercion. ... Thus it seems apparent that the Warren Commission was exercising governmental authority to obtain evidence, so a legitimate question as to its authority can be raised, despite the fact that no challenge was brought in the courts.

... Suppose [Marguerite] Oswald ... suspecting that the Commission was going to issue a report naming her son as the President's assassin, sued to enjoin the publication of the report. Or, suppose that after the Commission had made its report she sued for damages, arguing that since he had not been found guilty in a court of law, and since they were not performing a legitimate governmental function, it was libel to pronounce him a murderer.

... Problems which did not, but might have, materialized raise serious questions for calm consideration before the need for another such agency appears. And until such consideration has been given, and wise judgments reached, only clearly legitimate governmental purposes should justify placing in jeopardy any of the values of our system of justice. There is great wisdom in Chief Justice Warren's implications in the Watkins case that government should not expose for the sake of exposure. *New York University Law Review, Why the Warren Commission?* Robert F. Cushman

- 6/10/65** Story *Portrait of an Assassin* by Rep. Gerald E. Ford, be released 6/14. Says Ford speculates that Marina may have unwittingly goaded Oswald to assassinate JFK by refusing to live with him. *New York Times: Book Views Role of Oswald's Wife*.
- 12/2/65** J. Lee Rankin ... today was named New York City corporation counsel, a \$35,000 a year post [by Mayor-elect John V. Lindsay]. *AP*, Notice mailed to bureau chiefs and correspondents.
- 4/1/66** *The Minority of One* carries article by Vincent J. Salandria, in which he says that on 2/26 he had examined, in *the National Archives*, FBI report of 12/63 [which conflicts with the *Warren Report* on location of back wound.] See Archives, 4/66 ff.
- 4/19/66** We have been referring to Lee Harvey Oswald, without qualification, as the man who killed President Kennedy.

Hereafter, make certain that we use a qualifying phrase, such as "identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot and killed President Kennedy." *AP*, notice/to bureau mailed to bureau chiefs and correspondents

**6/20/66** The *National Commission on Food Marketing*, which will recommend sweeping regulations of the food industry, has been accused of reaching a verdict without having developed supporting evidence. ...

... Sen. Roman Hruska and others criticize:

"A strangely inverted procedure was imposed by the majority to develop the conclusions' and report," Sen. Hruska wrote.

First, he said, recommendations , later renamed 'conclusions,' were voted.

"Next the report was contrived to give the 'conclusions' credibility," he said. "Thereafter --weeks later -- staff documents were completed, from which the 'conclusions' and the report purport to have been drawn.

"The conclusions, therefore, could as well have been formulated before the commission met." *New York Times*, Washington, William M. Blair

**6/29/66** *Inquest*, by Edward Jay Epstein; *Viking Press*; pub. date, 6/29/66.

News stories and reviews.

**6/29/66** p. 33 There was thus a dualism in purpose. If the explicit purpose of the Commission was to ascertain and expose the facts, the implicit purpose was to protect the national interest by dispelling rumors.

These two purposes were compatible so long as the damaging rumors were untrue. But what if a rumor damaging to the national interest proved to be true? The Commission's explicit purpose would dictate that the information be exposed regardless of the consequences, while the Commission's implicit purpose would dictate that the rumor be dispelled regardless of the fact that it was true. In a conflict of this sort, one of the Commission's purposes would emerge as dominant. *Inquest*, Edward Jay Epstein

**8/25/66** In San Francisco, Lane asked [Aug. 24] that all the evidence on the assassination in the National Archives be made available for objective analysis. *San Francisco Chronicle*

**7-8/66** Review of Epstein's *Inquest*. Extends Epstein's findings to an acid indictment of the Commission and its methods. *The Minority of One, On "Closing Doors, Not Opening Them" or, The Limits of the Warren Investigation*, Sylvia Meagher, p. 29

**8/13/66** ... Nothing in the whole story of the Warren Commission seems in retrospect more remarkable than its failure to demand to see the photographic evidence which would have shown not only the full details of the wounds on the President's body, but also presumably the path of the crucial bullet. *San Francisco Chronicle*, from *London Observer*, Anthony Howard

**8/15/66** Warren's courtly sense of propriety, too, was a source of bitter frustration for some of the staff. It was he who refused, over staff protests, to have the autopsy pictures and X-rays admitted even as secret evidence - Warren contended that it would be "tasteless" to look at picture of the President's corpse. *Newsweek* Kenneth Auchincloss, p. 32, review of Lane

**8//15/66** ... President Lyndon Johnson himself was never called to testify. A list of questions for him was in fact prepared and submitted to Johnson's confidant Abe Fortas [then a Washington lawyer, now a U.S. Supreme Court Justice]. Fortas returned a veto of the idea; Warren, to the staff's dismay, agreed. *Newsweek*, Kenneth Auchincloss, p. 32

**9/66** Analysis of the way both the FBI and the Warren Commission avoided thorough investigation of Oswald's visit to an automobile agency.

... Why did the significance of these facts [that the FBI had not investigated thoroughly or told the police] escape the Warren Commission, if it did?

If it did not, why wasn't Clements cross-examiner on his handling of the Bogard [salesman] story? Clements was deposed by time Commission counsel on the same date, in the same building, and within the same hour as Bogard [7H 318-322]; he was asked no questions about Bogard's story and he volunteered no information on the subject. ... *The Minority of One, How Well Did the "Non-Driver" Oswald Drive?*, Sylvia Meagher. p. 19

**10/10/66** p. 58 - Specter: When the Commission was formed, President Johnson took great pains to select Commissioners who had high standing and who were independent of the Government or the so-called bureaucracy in Washington. When the Commission then went out to organize its staff, it did not select people who had ties or allegiances to Government who might have been beholden to some department or another for their jobs ... every conceivable pain was taken to select people who were totally independent, which is hardly the way you set out to organize a truth-concealing Commission. ...

Q. [p. 63] Did you also use any private and independent means of investigation?

A. Absolutely. When it came to the question of double-check on ballistic material, there were independent experts [two?] brought in who had no Federal Government connections.

When it came to the question of the depth of some of the tests - such as those made by the wound-ballistics people they were from the Army, but they were the best experts available. So there was a wide scope of federal talent used, and substantial nonfederal

talent used as well. Interview of Arlen Specter, *US News & World Report*

**11/2/66** Boston - Edward Jay Epstein, author of *Inquest*, ... says the possibility of a second assassin "will probably be reduced to nil" by pictures released by the Kennedy family.

Epstein ... said in an interview yesterday the pictures and X-rays ... may supply conclusive proof of the Warren Commission finding that a single assassin killed the President.

... If we now have photographic evidence that the bullet went through the President's body, this must be seen as new evidence. ... This also proves," he said, "the main point of my book - that the Warren Commission failed to examine crucial evidence. ... "AP, 832 acs

**11/15/66** Discussion of what is known and not known about the costs of the Commission's work, and ridding the question of why the critics never had mentioned this. *San Rafael Independent-Journal -- Warren Commission Costs Never Bared*, by Robert S.Allen and Paul Scott.

**11/27/66** Announcer: The demands for a new investigation continued to grow this week and prompted an exchange between Governor Connally and Mark Lane. Governor Connally said:

Connally: It is shocking to me that in the backlash of tragedy journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane attempt to impugn the motives of these members individually, cast doubts upon the Commission as a whole, and question the credibility of the government itself.

Announcer: Asked to comment on those words by Governor Connally, Mark Lane told *ABC News*:

Lane: If the bullet which hit him did not first hit President Kennedy, as he swears, then in fact there were two assassins; and the statement by the governor that I'm a journalistic scavenger is in error, at least in one respect - I'm not a journalist at all; I'm a lawyer and former member of the New York state legislature. But I think that he has shown an abysmal ignorance as to the implications of his testimony ... *Governor Connally*, on *ABC*

**3/20/67** William Manchester, writing about his dispute with the Kennedy family [*Look* magazine, 4/4], said:

He began his research in the offices of the Warren Commission, where he had access to the documents the Commission used in its investigation of the assassination.

Later, he says, Chief Justice Earl Warren "rather cannily" asked him to read a first draft of the Commission's report and to say, as

a friend of the Kennedys', that its findings were acceptable to the family. Mr. Manchester says he felt this would be improper.

Mr. Manchester says he had promised Mr. Warren that he wouldn't visit Texas until after the President had accepted the Commission's report. *New York Times*, John Corry

- 5/67** One of the most poignant documents in American history was signed more than two-and-a-half centuries ago by 12 men in Salem, Massachusetts. It is easy for us, now, to see the error of the witchcraft hysteria that swept Salem ... in 1692, a year that saw no less than 11 women and 8 men hanged, one man "pressed to death," and 150 persons imprisoned on witchcraft charges. But not until that cataclysm of terror and vengeance was over did the 12 men of the jury that condemned the "witches" find sufficient doubt in their own souls to sign a paper declaring: " ... we justly fear that we were sadly deluded and mistaken, for which we are much disquieted and distressed in our minds; and do therefore humbly beg forgiveness, first of God for Christ's sake for this our Error ... we would none of us do such things again on such grounds for the whole World ... "*Mademoiselle* magazine, Raymond K. Price, Jr.
- 5/8/67** [New Orleans] States-Item says Garrison will seek full scale Senate inquiry into CIA's role in the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination. Claims CIA and FBI cooperate in concealing facts from Warren Commission and public, and now thing to obstruct the gathering of evidence in the case. Said Oswald' s activities in New Orleans in 1963 carried on with the full knowledge and consent of the CIA and FBI. Said he did not believe Warren Commission aware significant evidence being withheld. *AP* A099 and B75, New Orleans [and various reprints]
- 7/67** Epstein says Manchester was given access to classified files of Warren Commission, which were available to no other journalist. [p. 25, second paragraph.] Edward Jay Epstein, *Manchester Unexpurgated*, Commentary
- 9/15/67** "... the biggest lie in the history of mankind ... this is a CIA group largely. You have John McCloy who formed [? indistinct] the OSS which became the CIA; You have Allen Dulles who is a former head of the CIA who is in effect a progression liar as head of the CIA, he was there to help see that nothing came up to embarrass the CIA, since the CIA was completely involved. ... You have Richard Russell ... known in the Senate as the best friend of the CIA and he's on the Senate watchdog committee for the CIA. You had Gerald Ford who's on the watchdog committee of the House for the CIA. ..." Transcribed from tape. *KNEW*, Oakland, *Joe Dolan* telephone interview with Garrison
- 11/13/67** Harold Weisberg press conference: "CIA involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy was known to Federal investigators and withheld from the members of the Warren Commission and the country."
- Details on how Wesley J. Liebeler handled late evidence, which Commission never saw, after Rankin told him it was his problem.
- Handout, plus CE 3120 showing Banister-Arcacha link.

- 11/15/67** "The Commission printed 10 million words, 26 large volumes, but it couldn't find space for documents as short as six lines of type which would have contradicted its story." *Criticism of the Commission and the Report*, Harold Weisberg, interview by *The Gater*, *San Francisco State College* student paper.
- 12/67** Points out that the importance of the Garrison case lies in its challenge to the *Warren Report* and the establishment. Says *Warren Report* is the basis of power in America today because it has made the Johnson administration legitimate. Says Warren Commission, if it was deliberately lying in its Report, did not do so for the anti-Castro Cubans, but for the ruling Establishment of which it is a part. *American Opinion* [organ of the *John Birch Society*] book review by Ledford Evans of *Plot or Politics*, by Rosemary James and Jack Wardlaw.
- 3/24/68** David Wise quotes Robert Bahmer, chief of National Archives, as saying that "from what I know of the records" there is nothing in the "sealed files" [classified files?] to contradict the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, killed JFK. Unclear whether Bahmer was answering direct question phrased in these terms.
- Basically, article deals with transcripts of executive sessions of Warren Commission, most of them declassified at author's request, he says, and sample titles of classified documents; notes "perfunctory" attempts to view autopsy photos, which were never seen by the Commission. *Saturday Evening Post* [4/6/68], David Wise
- 4/7/68** James Tague's story, signed by him. Article includes very clear photo of nick in pavement, taken by Tom Dillard of *the Dallas Morning News*, which should have been available to Warren Commission. Compare with very unsatisfactory ones published as exhibits: Tague Exhibit 1 [Hearings V. p. 650], Shaneyfelt Exhibit 29 [Hearings V. XXI pp. 479, 480, 482]. *National Enquirer*
- 5/7/68** On *Johnny Carson Show* [1/31/68] [tape # 72]: after *NBC* stipulated Garrison could appear if he would debate a member of the Warren Commission - Garrison's reply, "Delighted. When?" - Carson was unable to get any Commission member to appear and then could find no Commission lawyer who would. In the week following the show, Garrison received 2,300 letters, every one supporting him. Lane, talk given at San Pablo, CA
- 5/17/68** Hoffman says setting up Warren Commission was suggested to President Johnson by Abe Fortas, lawyer for Bobby Baker.
- ... It was Fortas who suggested a special Presidential Commission to make the investigation. Such a Commission would preempt the ground of any other investigation and bring rumors about the murder under control. It would prevent publicity-seekers from using any other investigating agencies such as the House Un-American Activities Committee to confuse the issues and would preclude mystery buffs and individualist zealots from digging around in such a politically sensitive area of concern ... [Such a Commission] should control the developing controversy .. 'and give a single report that would command the Nation's full confidence.'" *LA Free Press*, Fred Hoffman

[See story for details, including Fortas' relations with Bobby Baker and Walter Jenkins

**6/5/68**

The *National Violence Commission* [originally named *The National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence*] is established by President Johnson 6/5/68, [Unrelated story, *New York Times*, 12/4/69, says Commission was established by President Johnson 6/10/68.] the day Robert Kennedy was shot and before he died 6/6/68.

The report of the Commission is issued in sections, that dealing with assassinations being made public 11/2/69. This section emphasizes that recent assassinations in the United States were nonconspiratorial, and says that historically "the evidence ... is overwhelming" that no Presidential assassination - with the exception of the abortive attempt on the life of President Truman - has been demonstrated to be the result of a conspiracy.

The Commission says that before Robert Kennedy was killed, "it might have been hypothesized in 1968 that the next assassin to strike at a President - or presidential candidate, as it turned out - would have most of the following attributes ... " With minor exceptions, the attributes listed conform to the official description of Oswald.

Material on *The National Violence Commission* is filed Robert Kennedy [b], 6/6/68 et seq., and 11/3/69, which includes excerpts from the Commission's report on assassinations.

**7-8/68**

*The Minority of One, Wheels Within Deals: How The Kennedy "Investigation" Was Organized* by Sylvia Meagher

**1/29/69**

Allen Dulles dies in *Georgetown University Hospital*, Washington, DC Had been ill a few weeks. Doctors attribute death to influenza complicated by pneumonia. [See CIA file 1/30/69, ff.

**4/1/71**

Warren Commission Document 354 was first published in *Six Seconds in Dallas* which told how an Army Intelligence Agent was trapped in the *Texas School Book Depository Building* just after President Kennedy was shot.

The agent's name was given as James Powell. No identification, other than name was given. No physical description of any type was given.

Thanks to the alertness of Gary Shaw of Cleburne, we can wonder if the James Powell, Chief of the Capitol Police in Washington, was the James Powell in the *Book Depository* that fateful day. If Chief Powell denies he was "the James Powell", we have only one less Powell to check.

This is another example of the purposefully incomplete work done by those charged with finding who was involved in the killing of President Kennedy. *Midlothian Mirror*

**4/28/71**

Washington, [4/27] - Robert C. Mardian, the Justice Department's chief internal security official, delivered today the bar association's official Law Day speech ...

[Mr. Mardian] said that the assassination of President Kennedy might have been made possible by what the Warren Commission called the Federal Bureau of Investigation's restrictive view of its duty to investigate Lee Harvey Oswald.

[Story makes no further reference to this.] *New York Times*

**11/22/71**

Article titled *The Warren Commission As Right,*" by David Belin [assistant counsel with Warren Commission] *New York Times*

**4/10/75**

*Time Inc.* Giving Up JFK Film [to Zapruder heirs, for \$1.00] *Washington Post*, William Gildea