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Editorial

Obey The Law

The Midlothian School Trustees have had a long history of secret meetings and we had hoped that with a new Superintendent, things would be different. We were wrong. First order of business Monday night was a secret meeting held at the request of R. W. Few, the tax collector.

Excerpts from Article 6252-17 of the Penal Code reads:

Section 1. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, every regular, special, or called meeting or session of every governmental body shall be open to the public.

Sec. 2. (a) The provisions of this Act do not apply to:

- (1) deliberations pertaining to the DISMISSAL of a PUBLIC OFFICER or employee or to complaints or charges brought against such an officer or employee, unless he requests a public hearing;
- (2) deliberations pertaining to the acquisition of additional REAL PROPERTY; or
- (3) deliberations on matters affecting SECURITY.

(b) A governmental body may exclude any witness or witnesses from a hearing during examination of another

witness in the matter being investigated.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent a governing body from CONSULTING WITH ITS ATTORNEY pertaining to any imminent or pending litigation or other legal matter involving the powers, duties, functions, or liabilities of the governing body.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the deliberations of GRAND JURIES.

Sec. 4. Any member of a governing body who wilfully calls or aids in calling or organizing a special or called meeting or session which is closed to the public, or who wilfully closes or aids in closing a regular meeting or session to the public, or who participates in a regular, special, or called meeting or session which is closed to the public without causing or attempting to cause his dissent to be entered in the record or minutes of the governing body, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200 on the first offense, and shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 on each subsequent offense.

This is clearly the law and we intend to see that charges are filed against the offending trustees in future violations.

H. L. Hunt Is A Liar

H. L. Hunt has had a rash of letters in both Dallas newspapers recently. Some of the letters are so nonsensical that it has been suggested that they are written in code.

In the dull days just before the beginning of the Republican Convention in Miami, H. L. called a press conference. At this conference, Hunt was clear and precise. Hunt, according to the news stories, told the reporters that he would support the Republicans in 1968 even though the party came out for abolition of the 27½ percent oil depletion allowance.

Of course, he was lying, but Hunt this time was loud and clear.

WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN

By:

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GOVERNMENT REACTION TO OSWALD AS ASSASSIN—REFLEXIVELY QUICK

Juxtaposed to the failure to provide any explanation for the extreme reluctance of the author-

ities to follow conspiratorial leads, there is also no satisfactory explanation of why there was such FAST ACTION in wanting Oswald. There was no general roll call in the Depository, and other employees than Oswald left the building. Thus, his behavior as a Depository employee did not seem to distinguish him in any way. The alleged eyewitness to the President's assassination, Howard L. Brennan, who was supposed to have seen Oswald do the shooting, is hardly a reliable witness. He failed to pick out Oswald in the police line up that day. (III H 148) Further, if we assume Brennan to have been a credible observer, the question remains concerning why after he informed the police, the assassin was in the Book Depository, police continued to concentrate on the knoll area, and why there was not immediate ACTION to seal off the Depository.

Further, if there was such prompt action in responding to Brennan's description of Oswald as being on the sixth floor of the School Book Depository, the question arises concerning why there was such INACTION until 1:22 p.m. so that the rifle and shells were not found on the sixth floor until that time.

Similar problems with eyewitness testimony related to the killing of Officer Tippit fail to inspire confidence in official honesty. Helen L. Markham, an eyewitness to the Tippit murder, gave a description of the assassin which didn't fit Oswald. In addition to Mrs. Markham, the only other witness who actually saw the shooting of Tippit were Domingo Benavides and Acquilla Clemons, and neither of them identified Oswald.

After his arrest, Oswald was taken to police headquarters for interrogation. When Chief of

Homicide, Fritz, arrived at HQ's shortly after 2:00 p.m. and put out a pick-up order on Oswald, he was told that Oswald was already in custody. (W-9) The reason for the pick-up order was ostensibly that after the assassination Oswald had been noticed as "missing" from the Depository by Roy Truly, manager of the building. (W-9) Although Oswald was not the only man missing from the Depository, Chief of Homicide, Fritz, immediately felt "it was important to hold him." (IV H 206) Again for some unknown reason, Oswald seemed to be in the spotlight. Oswald was interrogated extensively for the remainder of the day by the Dallas police, Secret Service agents, and FBI agents. No transcripts exist for these or any other sessions during which Oswald was questioned. According to the testimony and notes made by those who questioned Oswald, he was never once asked about either the Tippit murder or Kennedy assassination. At a midnight press conference on Friday night Oswald made the following remarks:

Nobody had told me anything except that I am accused of murdering a policeman. I know nothing more than that and I do request someone to come forward to give me legal assistance." (W 200,201)

When asked if he had killed the President, Oswald replied:

"No, I have not been charged with that. In fact nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question." (W 201)

Later he told John Hart of CBS: "I'm just a patsy." (7) Is it not incredible that Oswald was

interrogated for about eight hours and apparently never asked about whether he killed the President?

Oswald was not the only suspect arrested that day. Richard Sprague, an independent investigator, has found photographic evidence of eight or nine persons under arrest following the assassination. Three were tramps arrested near the railroad tracks; two were Negroes, one was a Cuban, and one was arrested in Fort Worth. Only one, Larry Florer, has been identified, and he was not questioned by the Warren Commission. (R. Sprague, "The Kennedy Assassination," Oct. 15, 1967. Edition No. 4)

7. Jones, Penn, FORGIVE MY GRIEF II, p. 11. The Midlothian Mirror, Inc., Texas, 1967.