

STAFF MEETING - MARCH 2, 1964

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following schedule was tentatively suggested:

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

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

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

*Noted - 1/25/64*

*3/2/64*

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

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

STAFF MEETING - 4:00 P.M., MARCH 2, 1964

Same people present as in the morning.

Mr. Willens announced that Mr. Barson, an IRS agent working on various matters in connection with the investigation, will be located in Dr. Goldberg's office.

The staff then returned to the discussion concerning the interviewing of witnesses. The major question that developed was whether inconsistencies should appear in the record. No decision resulted.

This led into a discussion of whether interviews between staff members and prospective witnesses should be recorded. Another point discussed was the final form of the report. The problem was how to deal with all of the documentary evidence.

It was decided to form a committee composed of Professor Redlich (Chairman), Mr. Belin and Mr. Liebeler to draft proposed procedures to be followed by the staff in interviewing witnesses.

At <sup>15</sup>8:30 P.M. the meeting was recessed with the hope that the committee would iron out all the above mentioned problems.

*Noted - Arnold  
3/2/64  
J. L. R.  
3-6-64*