

McWillie invoked rule to prevent live or taped broadcast.

After almost 40 minutes of idle and often wrong-headed chatter by Totenberg and Volz the committee begins with McWillie and NPR goes to recorded music. During this the audience was treated to such sparkling journalism as Volz' insistence that Oswald was the assassin when Totenberg aired the call to NPR from Marguerite Oswald in which she asked that Lee be referred to as the alleged assassin. This reflects the Volz mind - that if an ex parte Commission says a man is guilty he is guilty, whether or not tried, convicted or even defended. There can be an NPR representation in this. Marguerite said if they did not she'd sue. When Volz insisted there was no NPR statement other than Totenberg's comment he had not been tried.

Resumed at 11 a.m. with Blakey narration relating to conjectures on Trafficante. First offers statement from retired CIA official, not here named, was Chief, operational support, office security. Approached superior who told of Maheu's involvement in anti-Castro plots.

Joe Aleman, who originally invoked Rule 6 against broadcasting and they changed mind. (Without this the committee would have lost coverage live.)

Aleman says that when he heard Trafficante say "hit" he interpreted it to mean JFK would not be re-elected and that he would be hit by lots of GOP votes.

Ask him about Crile WxPost article. Cornwell asks if Crile interviewed him often and went over piece before publication. When Aleman does not say what is wanted they keep going over and over the same things, getting nowhere. He says Trafficante had Castro connections. Finally they take a break to vote. End side tape.

Side 2
Tape 1 NPR commentary is to the effect that McWillie said nothing, remembered little, etc. Said Ruby in Cuba once and for six days, was there twice, once month. With bank records appears Cuba was in and out of Cuba although records show continuous period. NPR suggests he/was Ruby was running money out of Cuba, for mob.

Recess ends at 12:05, tape setting 242. Aleman appears to be of what might be termed Santosed memory because it appears to be inconsistent with all records on the "hit" question.

Direct ends at 483, after he says committee should be inquiring into Trafficante-Cuban government connection. Edgar says no purpose in asking questions because of the change in what Aleman is saying. Rest appear to agree. No further questioning. Has no statement for his 5 minutes. At 520.

At 555 Blakey offers F311, list of US ga,bling figures from Cuban Govt. 8/26 it also gave committee an "individual who was involved in" setting up and operating a camp. Enter his statement without name given. F410. Adjourn at 582.

PM
Tape 2
idea 1 Recessed to 3:30 so Stokes could question Trafficante. Stokes busy with Senate. He is last scheduled witness of the day. Previously he had insisted on being in a public hearing and then took the fifth on TV.

At 3:45 Preyer announced the expectation of word on Stokes' return momentarily.

The long break provides an opportunity for Totenberg's partisan comment often unfactual, never fair and as wild as "as a matter of fact the Umbrella Man figures in almost all assassination books." Fralse. The nonsense appears in none of the serious ones, none of the basic or responsible ones and of the rest of the literature it is in only the wildest. If she says this after having been given samples of the so-called literature, someone was loading here with the nut stuff only.

The covering up for and the justifying of the committee is hardly the journalistic or the electronic norm. She goes out of her way to bring up and comment in a biased way on what appears to justify what in fact is error. One is that the facial study of Oswald says to rest to "two Oswald" theory. That is one of the more minor of the allegations, reached out for because it is not a fair sample by the committee and because the committee could misuse it. It is the responsibility of reporters to report unfair, incomplete or dishonest proceedings, not to pretend they are of other character and then to seek to foster the official representation of them

In the course of this she and Volz make it clear that the committee's purpose to which they lend themselves and the NPR facilities is to cover over and end all possible disagreement with the official account of the crimes. To this end they also treat all "critics" as one and include all nuts as "critics." They do the same with literature, a nutty pamphlet or article in a minor underground paper becoming typical of all books.

At 4:30 Totenberg says they have been told that Trafficante said he wants no lights, radio or TV and they sign off.

This means that in the afternoon alone except for a recess of a little over an hour they were on the air and not broadcasting any proceeding. They were broadcasting the kinds of opinions indicated above.