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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

VOL. 16

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ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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Washington, D. C.

Monday, February 24, 1964

The President's Commission met, pursuant to recess, at 5:10 p.m., in The Hearing Room, Fourth Floor, 200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, Washington, D. C., Chief Justice Earl Warren, presiding.

PRESENT:

Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman

Senator John Cooper, Member

Representative Gerald R. Ford, Member

Allen W. Dulles, Member

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J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel

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The Chairman. The Commission will be in order.

The first item on our agenda today is recent disclosures by Marina Oswald regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and Richard M. Nixon.

Would you express your views as to what should be done to follow that up, Mr. Rankin? I think the Commission is all familiar now with the testimony.

Mr. Rankin. We recommend to the Commission that the testimony of James Martin be taken promptly, and we suggested Thursday, February 27, at 9 a.m. We have communicated with his counsel, Mr. Thorne, and Mr. Martin has indicated he is willing to come in at that time of his own volition and testify. And we have given him a list of documents that we would like to have him produce which relates to anything he has concerning any conversations and advice, instructions and other material of that kind concerning the testimony of Mrs. Marina Oswald or preparation of articles by her, or other things of that character.

We have planned, then, subject to the Commission's approval, to have him on Thursday of this week.

The Chairman. Gentlemen, is there any discussion of that matter?

Mr. Dulles. I think that is wise.

The Chairman. If not, you may proceed in that manner.

Mr. Rankin.

The next item is the area of security precautions -- letter from Secretary Dillon to the Chairman, and the proposed response.

By Mrs. [unclear]
Date 2/23/64

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we have these comprehensive memoranda that have been developed for five of the six areas, and we have samples or copies of two of them for the Commissioners to examine when they have time.

And then in accordance with the discussion here today, we will prepare a detailed program of developing the evidence of witnesses, first by recommendations as to those that should appear before the Commission or a member of the Commission, in accordance with the procedures already established, and then another list of those that should appear for sworn testimony by question and answer form, and a third list by affidavit, and we will indicate in that list the reasons why we think they should be classified in each category, and ask the Commission for instructions as to whether that will be acceptable, or whether they wish to have one or some of the witnesses from one category to another.

Rep. Ford. About when would that be ready, Mr. Rankin?

Mr. Rankin. I hope that will be ready by the end of the week.

The Chairman. All right.

Is there anything further on that? Any questions about it?

Now, the letter designed to bring about Walter Craig's appointment as advisor was approved. And subsequent to that, Mr. Rankin and I had a visit with Mr. Craig, and the President-elect of the American Bar Association, Mr. Powell, and they agreed to -- that Mr. Craig should serve in that capacity, as advisor to the Commission concerning the involvement of Lee

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By Mr. Ford
Date 2/13/68

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Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Craig said that he felt that he should have the approval of his board of governors, and that he would report to me on this day.

He phoned me about half an hour ago and stated that he had the approval of his board, and that he would accept the assignment and would be here tomorrow morning to discuss the matter with Mr. Rankin, and with me.

Rep. Ford. Do I remember that we tentatively approved an announcement or news release at the time we discussed the letter, and that would be in that format?

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The Chairman. That is right. You have that.

Mr. Rankin. I have that.

The Chairman. After discussing it with Mr. Craig tomorrow, we will be prepared to issue it.

And, incidentally, he and Mr. Powell agreed to that statement, also, at our conference a few days ago.

Mr. Rankin. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. Gentlemen, is there anything further?

Mr. Dulles. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

The Chairman. Is there anything further to come before the meeting, gentlemen?

If not, we will adjourn.

(Whereupon, at 5:20 p.m., the Commission recessed, to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 27, 1964.)

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