

(286) Attachment I: Letter and attachments from Judge Burt W. Griffin to G. Robert Blakey, November 23, 1977.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

003477

COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

BURT W. GRIFFIN
JUDGE

November 23, 1977

Mr. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel
House Committee on Assassinations
House Annex #2
3rd and D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

When I returned home from Washington on November 17th my 14 year old son (thank God for 14 year old sons) mentioned to me that he had been rummaging in our attic and had found a stack of Warren Commission papers.

Lo and behold when he brought them down, they were xeroxed copies of nearly every memo which I had written in 1964, together with some other inter-office communications to me from other staff members. I now remember that these were sent to me some months ago by Paul Hoch, a Warren Commission researcher in San Francisco. I had never looked at them and merely stashed them away.

I have now reviewed all of them and am forwarding four for your consideration.

The enclosed papers, together with others which I have not sent, suggest four important amendments to my testimony:

1. There are memoranda in the file showing that Leon Hubert was at work in Washington for the Commission at least as early as January 14, 1964, and it is my recollection that I began work before Hubert. Perhaps, you do not fully understand the significance of the pay records which you have summarized.
2. There are a number of inter-office memos dated prior to May 1, 1964, which show rather substantial amounts of communication from Hubert and me to others working in the conspiracy area and vice-versa. Your staff people are probably aware of these.
3. The June 1, 1964 memo that I have enclosed shows quite clearly that Hubert and I told Willens "we believe the investigative requests now underway will serve to correct all the matters specified in our memorandum of May 14th." In light of

that statement, I don't see how I can now complain about the follow-through on the investigative matters requested in paragraphs four and five of the memorandum (pages 5,6,7,8,9 & 10). Moreover, other letters bearing Mr. Rankin's signature, which I have not sent to you, show the nature of the investigation that we requested with respect to the specific matters set forth in those pages. There are also, among the papers sent to me by Paul Hoch, a few other letters prepared around June 1, 1964, with Mr. Rankin's signature, which were not sent to the investigative agencies. Apparently, we did do some compromising. But obviously I was prepared to put in writing to Howard Willens my satisfaction with the investigation we were doing, and I will not now attempt to put the jacket on someone else within the commission staff.

4. On page 46 of an unpublished early draft of the conspiracy chapter, I wrote as follows:

"The CIA has no information suggesting that Jack Ruby was involved in any type of Cuban or other foreign conspiracy."

Since that draft was obviously written before the September 14th letter which you showed me from the CIA, I have to conclude that we had received oral communications from the CIA telling us that they had no information and that we ultimately insisted on their putting their oral statements to us in writing. That, I believe, is why the CIA letter came so late. This may not change your conclusion about the CIA cooperation in connection with our requests for information on Ruby, but it does flesh in some more detail on how they responded to that request.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Burt W. Griffin
Judge

BWG/mjm

Enclosures

MEMORANDUM

June 1, 1964

TO: Mr. Howard F. Willens

FROM: Leon D. Hubert, Jr.
Burt G. Griffin

In response to your memorandum of June 1, 1964, we expect that by Wednesday June 3, 1964 all of the investigative requests which are now appropriate will have been delivered to you.

With respect to Brock Wall, we believe that it may later be appropriate to question him, Joe Peterson, and Ralph Paul through the FBI or by deposition concerning the telephone calls Ruby made between 11:18 p.m. and 11:46 p.m. on Saturday November 23. However, we do not wish to undertake such questioning until the results of our other requests have been examined. In addition, it should be emphasized that further investigative requests may become appropriate in the course of reading the Ruby trial transcript, examining further evidence to be produced by Ruby or his attorneys, writing a final draft, and foot-noting.

Nonetheless, we believe the investigative requests now underway will serve to correct all the matters specified in our memorandum of May 14. We presume that our suggestions for obtaining radio tapes, television tapes, hotel and motel records, and airline passenger manifests are of such a broad nature as to be outside the scope of any requests by way of letters to the FBI; but we understand that consideration has been given to these suggestions and that a decision will be made in the future as to whether or not these suggestions will be implemented.

Griffin/jv/6-1-64
CC: Griffin chron file
Mr. Rankin

SEP 22 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Ave. & 9th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In confirmation of a telephone conversation Monday, September 21, 1964 between Mr. Burt W. Griffin of our staff and Mr. Swanson of your office, I would appreciate your forwarding as quickly as possible a letter stating whether or not prior to November 24, 1963 there was any information in your files concerning subversive activities of Jack Ruby.

Your cooperation in the work of the Commission is appreciated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Griffin/jv/9-22-64
CC: Griffin &ron file
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens

MR. JACK

2-1-2

September 14, 1964

Int MEMORANDUMTO: J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

FROM: Durt W. Griffin

Pursuant to your request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has provided for examination all reports in its files pertaining to the activities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area during the year 1963 of all persons associated with the anti-Castro Cuban groups, known as ALFA 66, JURE and Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE).

I have examined those reports and have found no names or activities mentioned which are recognizable by me in any way as being connected with Jack Ruby, with any of Jack Ruby's known associates or any activities in which Jack Ruby participated.

Griffin/jv/9-14-64
CC: Griffin chron file
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

September 24, 1964
BY COURIER SERVICE

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 70-100

LEE HANKIN
General Counsel

SAE WARD
SICILIO & SCHEIDT
THE NATIONAL CLEARING
HOUSE BANK
1700 15th Street, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

MEMORANDUM

September 21, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Hankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated September 22, 1964, wherein you requested a letter advising whether or not, prior to November 24, 1963, there was any information in the files of this Bureau concerning any subversive activities of Jack L. Ruby.

Please refer to my letter dated April 7, 1964, wherein you were advised that a thorough search had been made of all FBI records prior to November 23, 1963, wherein any mention was made of Ruby. As a result of this search, all records relating to Jack L. Ruby prior to November 23, 1963, were furnished to you at that time.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

TO: J. Lee Hankin
General Counsel
FROM: Durt V. Griffin

I have personally examined all reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the Dallas and Fort Worth area pertaining to subversive activities during 1961 and have found no reports identifiable with Jack Ruby or any of his known associates.

Durt V. Griffin

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3034