

BURQUEMANNA 7-8787

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April 29, 1964

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I apologize for the delay in answering your letter of April 16, 1964. I have just returned to the United States from abroad.

I will seek permission from my source to reveal his name to your Commission as I previously stated. Absent that permission I will be unable to reveal his name. I hope that the Commission will not seek to reverse what I understood to be its previous position by now seeking to force me, by invoking its power of subpoena, to violate a moral commitment.

For the best information regarding statements made by Miss Helen Markham and other eye witnesses I would suggest that you contact, if you have not already done so, those witnesses directly. I am mildly surprised that you seek to secure the working documents of an attorney who had been retained to represent a client and who developed such documents in that capacity.

I was willing to testify before the Commission although your request that I do so coupled with your refusal to permit me to act as counsel for my client was somewhat unusual. I will continue to cooperate with the Commission in all matters that do not require me to violate the attorney-client relationship.

This very morning as I left my home I was accosted by two special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who demanded to know if I had any documents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation files in my possession. They sought to secure such documents from my person on that occasion as we stood in the rain. They informed me that they had "confidential information" that I had illegally secured such documents. I informed them that I had given to your Commission information regarding all the documents in my possession. I suggested that they contact you.

I have now secured information proving that the story widely circulated throughout the United States on February 19 that there was

an eyewitness, a Negro janitor, who actually saw Oswald pull the trigger, was deliberately planted by an agent of the Secret Service. I would suggest that your Commission should show less concern with the sources of my information and more concern with the harassment of an American citizen by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. May I also suggest that you might seek to determine why an agent of the U.S. Secret Service deliberately planted a false story with the media. Should you be interested in conducting such an investigation, I will make known to you all the details, including the names and numbers of the F.B.I. agents and the names of those persons involved in the transmission of the false news story.

One additional matter in your letter to me of April 16, you sought to imply that I made a false answer to the Commission in calling my attention to my testimony on page 76. In your letter you state, "We also call your attention to page 76 of your public testimony in which you were asked whether you possessed any documentary evidence other than that which you submitted to the Commission. Your reply was 'Not beyond what I have submitted or made reference to.'" You have incorrectly paraphrased your question above. Permit me to call your attention to page 76 and the question which you put to me. "Mr. Rankin, Now, is there any documentary evidence beyond which you have submitted that you would like to submit to the Commission?" In any event, I indicated that I did not wish to make available information beyond that which I had submitted or made reference to. May I now call your attention to page 75 of my public testimony, insisting those statements that I had made reference to. "Mr. Rankin, 'Do you have anything beyond that that you care to submit?' Mr. Lane, 'I have the various statements which I have made reference to from Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Markham, Mr. Klein, Mr. Pyler. But I have given you the essence of those statements. If you are interested in pursuing that, I think it might be best to call them.'"

I am certain that upon rereading the paragraphs that I have called to your attention, a letter of apology from your office will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Mark Lane
Mark Lane
per Dairdra Griswold

ML:dj
Dictated but not read.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2512—Continued