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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

June 11, 1975

Select Committee to Study
Intelligence Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Gentlemen:

The Rockefeller Report, while it makes some long overdue recommendations for better control of the Central Intelligence Agency, is an inadequate investigation of its activities. The inquiry, conceived of in a political and governmental vacuum, based upon the false distinction between domestic and foreign intelligence, composed of lawyers more attuned to the needs of prosecuting crime than discovering truth, carried on in a conventional bureaucratic way, and approved of by a body too closely associated with the object it was to investigate, mistakes, consequently, the whole process by which the agency wandered further and further from its statutory duties. The commission has assumed that the CIA is innocent of any wrong doing except in specific areas in which almost a prima facie case against it can be made and which the agency is willing to treat in a responsible way. In the process, the commission has mistaken things like cause for effect, greater for lesser crime and reality for appearance. The result is curiously reminiscent of another controversial report -- i. e., the Warren Report.

The role of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in this whole process is not simply accidental. The CIA went wrong when certain of its officials after the Bay of Pigs fiasco decided that for certain partisan interests, they could better direct their dirty tricks against the Democratic Administration in Washington. After their plots and deceptions were frustrated by Kennedy's settlement of the Cuban Missile Crisis, they, along with certain intelligence operatives associated with the Defense Intelligence Agency, formed a marriage of convenience with Richard M. Nixon and his associates. The plan was for the former to kill the President, and for the latter to cover it up and explain it away. In the process, things like Robert Maheu's plots against Castro were recast so as to provide an explanation of the assassination before the event, as Wallace Turner's series on Las Vegas in the NYT during the five days before the killing so aptly illustrated. After the assassination, the CIA invented and solved a plot against General de Gaulle in order to continue to keep honest investigators in the dark. What Wayne Hawks unwittingly institutionalized before the event, J. Edgar Hoover did wittingly after the event.

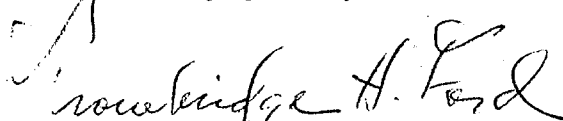
In this context, the performance of the Rockefeller Commission has amounted to a cover-up. Rather than taking an open-minded approach to the whole process, it has latched onto the red-herrings of people like Mark Lane, Bernard Fensterwald, Robert Groden, Dick Gregory and Ralph Schoenman. The commission could have better spent its time checking who they are and who supports them than going over the same old ground of the "conspiracy buffs." An adequate explanation of JFK's murder has to deal with more than just what Richard Helms or an associate is willing to say about CIA's relationship with Ruby and Oswald, the Zapruder film,

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Hunt's location at the actual time of the shooting, where Nixon and Hoover spent the previous evening, what Dallas Chief Postal Inspector H. L. Holmes is willing to say about the murder scene, etc. In short, the Commission did just what I warned it against -- i. e., letting agents of the intelligence community make monkeys of it.

In this situation, your committee's scope and responsibilities have unavoidably been vastly increased. It must conduct a complete, open inquiry of a most complicated process which will finally determine what did and what didn't happen in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Short of this, the apparent guilty and the obvious innocent will be so polarized that the nation's very continuance, at least in the manner that we have been accustomed, may well be in jeopardy. I wish you success.

Sincerely yours,



Trowbridge H. Ford
Associate Professor of
Political Science

c. c.: The Rockefeller Commission.
✓ DCI William Colby.