January 13, 1995

Dr. Robert L. Carr
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Dear Bob:

On November 21, 1963, Ernestine and I (as Texas Attorney General), accompanied by Mrs. John Connally, flew from Austin to San Antonio to meet President and Mrs. John Kennedy, Governor John Connally and their party as we began a two day tour of Texas. After a rally and speech by the President at the airport in San Antonio, Ernestine and I joined Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson in Air Force II for the flight to Houston. At Houston, after a parade, banquet and Presidential speech, we flew to Ft. Worth where the tour participants spent the night.

Early the next morning, November 22, the President addressed a crowd in front of the Texas Hotel after which we had breakfast in the hotel ballroom where the President again spoke. I was seated at the head table and as we were breaking up to head for Dallas, President Kennedy shook my hand, said how he and Mrs. Kennedy were enjoying the tour. He said he had been informed that Mrs. Carr and I were leaving the tour for the Dallas leg but that he looked forward toward seeing us in Austin for the statewide rally that evening. I had previously agreed to a noon speech in Dumas, Texas, that I felt obligated to keep so I was scheduled to fly by private plane to Dumas and then fly to Austin for the evening banquet and rally. Ernestine flew to Austin to await my arrival there. It was while I was in the air that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Because of the assassination news, I cancelled my noon speech and immediately flew to Austin to be available to assist in any legal problems that might arise.

Thereafter, Governor Connally, wounded by the assassin and confined to his Dallas hospital bed, appointed me, Lt. Governor Preston Smith, House Speaker Byron Tunnell and the head of the State Democratic Party, Eugene Locke, to represent Texas at the funeral of the slain President held in Washington, D.C. While there, I advised a White House Aide that Texas law authorized the Attorney General to convene a Court of Inquiry to determine the facts surrounding crimes and I would be ready to do so, should President Johnson so desire. Before I left town to return to Texas, I was advised by the White House that I should convene such a Court of Inquiry as soon as possible. While I was preparing for such, the President decided he should appoint a Special Presidential Commission to investigate the Assassination and he asked
me if I would coordinate the Texas Investigation with the Commission investigation. This made good sense as both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate had indicated they planned to launch investigations also. Thus, several investigations would be going on at the same time with resulting competition for witnesses, etc. It could resemble a 3 ring circus and perhaps bring discredit upon the entire investigation in the eyes of the whole world.

I agreed to combine the state investigation with the national investigation and, thereafter, actively participated in the operations of the Warren Commission which it became known as since the Chairman of the Presidential Commission was U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren.

This investigation continued for 10 months until, on September 24, 1964, the Commission made its 26 volume written report to the President. The investigation was intense. For example, immediately after the assassination more than 80 additional FBI personnel were transferred to the Dallas office to assist in the investigation. The FBI conducted approximately 25,000 interviews of persons having possible relevant information and submitted over 2,300 reports totaling 25,400 pages to the Commission. The Secret Service conducted approximately 1,550 interviews and submitted 800 reports totaling some 4,600 pages. In addition to this information the Commission took the testimony of 552 witnesses. I recite these figures to assure you that the investigation was very thorough.

The investigation compelled the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin of President Kennedy. There was no credible evidence that Oswald was part of a conspiracy. There was no evidence that the Soviet Union or Cuba were involved, nor did the Commission’s investigation of Jack Ruby produce any grounds for believing that Ruby’s killing of Oswald was part of a conspiracy. The conclusion that there was no evidence of a conspiracy was also reached independently by Robert F. Kennedy, the Attorney General and brother of the slain President; Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State; Robert McNamara, the Secretary of Defense; J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI; and others.

By the way, in case you have forgotten, the members of the President’s Commission in addition to Chief Justice Warren was U.S. Senator Richard Russell, Democrat from Georgia and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican from Kentucky and former U.S. Ambassador to India; U.S. Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat from Louisiana and majority whip; U.S. Representative Gerald R. Ford, Republican from Michigan and later U.S. President; Allen W. Dulles, former Director of Central Intelligence, and John J. McCloy, former President of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, former U.S. High Commissioner for Germany, and during World War II, the Assistant Secretary of War. I name these members to suggest to you how ridiculous it is for anyone, including the JFK movie, to suggest that the Commission was
involved in a conspiracy with other elements of our government, including President Johnson, to assassinate President Kennedy.

Let me just briefly touch on 4 popular rumors or speculations that have been renewed that supposedly throw doubt on the Warren Commission’s conclusion.

1. **Oswald could not have fired 3 shots from his rifle in 5½ seconds.**

   According to expert witnesses, exacting tests conducted for the Commission demonstrated that it was possible to fire 3 shots from the rifle within 5½ seconds. It should be noted that the first loaded shell was already in the chamber ready for firing. Oswald had only to pull the trigger to fire the first shot and to work the bolt twice in order to fire the second and the third shots. From a personal standpoint let me add that during the investigation I hosted a visit to the School Book Depository building with several members of the Commission present. We had Oswald’s rifle there. Aware of the speculation that Oswald could not have fired 3 shots in 5½ seconds, I sat at the 6th floor window, where Oswald sat, aimed the rifle at the imaginary presidential limousine and tried to fire 3 times within 5½ seconds. I could not do it. However, Commission member John McCloy, who followed me at the window, and others had no difficulty. I have no doubt that Oswald, being familiar with his own rifle and a former Marine marksman, was capable of firing those shots.

2. **The shots that killed the President came from the railroad overpass above the triple underpass.**

   The shots that entered the neck and head of the President and wounded Governor Connally came from behind and above. The medical examination proved this. There is no evidence that any shots were fired at the President from anywhere other than the Texas School Board Depository building. Additionally, some of Oswald’s fellow workers were viewing the parade from the fifth story window directly under the window Oswald used. They testified that the shots came from above them. Three spent cartridges were found at the 6th floor window where Oswald was.

3. **The now famous picture of Oswald holding his rifle was "doctored." Oswald’s face was posted on somebody else’s body.**
Marina Oswald, his widow, testified under oath that the picture was genuine. She took the picture herself with the family camera. The camera is an exhibit in the Commission’s report. When Marina Oswald appeared before the Commission she was shown the rifle found on the 6th floor of the Depository. She identified it as the "fateful rifle of Lee Oswald" and the rifle shown in the picture.

4. If you have seen the JFK movie, you will recall a long conversation between District Attorney Garrison and a Mister "X" where Mister "X" revealed a government conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

Oliver Stone, the movie’s producer, now admits there was no Mister "X" and there was no such incident. He just made it up to make the movie seem more believable.

A personal comment, please. I consider it ethically and morally wrong to produce a movie for great profit that purposely misleads and causes distrust of our American government among our younger generation who have no first hand knowledge of the Association nor has taken the opportunity to learn the truth.

To conclude this report to you, let me add that I and/or my two special counsels, Leon Jaworski of Houston and former President of the Texas Bar Association and former SMU Law School Dean and President of the American Bar Association Robert Storey, agreed with the conclusions reached by the Warren Commission and reported such in a written report to Governor Connally. At least one of us attended almost all of the Commission’s interviews with the witnesses and participated in the examination of the witnesses. I quote from the final written report of the Commission to the President:

"In addition to the assistance afforded by the federal agencies, the Commission throughout its inquiry had the cooperation of representatives of the City of Dallas and the State of Texas. The Attorney General of Texas, Waggoner Carr, aided by two distinguished lawyers of that State, Robert G. Storey of Dallas, retired Dean of the Southern Methodist University Law School, and former president of the American Bar Association, and Leon Jaworski of Houston, former president of the Texas State Bar Association, has been fully informed at all times as to the progress of the investigation, and has advanced such suggestions as he and his special assistants considered helpful to the accomplishments of the Commission’s assignment. Attorney General Carr has promptly supplied the Commission with pertinent information possessed by Texas officials."
I appreciate your interest in this national tragedy and hope this report to you adds a helpful addition to your records.

Marina Oswald, widow of Lee Harvey Oswald, told during her testimony about a conversation between them in which he promised her that someday he would be a BIG man. Oswald must be smiling in his grave.

Your brother,

[Signature]