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Before The

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Washington, D.C.

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## AFTER RECESS

(The committee reconvened 2:00 p.m., Hon. Louis Stokes, chairman of the committee, presiding.)

Present: Representatives Stokes, Devine, Preyer, Burke, Fauntroy, Dodd, Fithian and Edgar.

Also Present: Al Lewis, Staff Member; Bob Tanenbaum, Staff Member; Richard Sprague, Staff Member; Jim Wolf, Staff Member; Bob Lehner, Staff Member; and Thomas Howarth, Staff Member; *and Rebecca Martin, chief clerk.*

The Chairman. The meeting will come to order.

First, I might advise the members of the committee that we have been in touch with the Rules Committee. We are advised that in all probability, we will go before Rules at 2:00 o'clock on Monday and it will go to the Floor Tuesday or Wednesday.

The format at this point has been discussed and it was suggested that perhaps we might just go in with the presentation by myself and our Ranking Minority Member, Mr. Devine, with Mr. Preyer and Mr. Fauntroy ready if they fire any questions in regard to the investigation and with the other members just in a supportive back-up position. The thinking being that in light of the briefing that took place the other day and the highly sensitive nature of the investigatory material that was given to them in all probability they are

2  
1 not going to want to get into very much questioning on that  
2 aspect.

3 So the less said about that in all probability is going  
4 to be, they think, the best approach.

5 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman.

6 The Chairman. Mr. Devine.

7 Mr. Devine. I am not sure it will be a problem, but  
8 Mr. Anderson of Illinois mentioned this morning that one of  
9 the 19 water projects that President Carter deferred or  
10 eliminated happens to be in his district and there is a pub-  
11 lic hearing in his district on Monday. I wish it were possible  
12 for Mr. Anderson to be at the Rules Committee when we appear  
13 because he is very articulate and on our side. I don't know  
14 whether we can persuade him to neglect his constituency or  
15 not, but we might keep that in mind in scheduling.

16 The young lady from Mr. Anderson's office, do you know  
17 whether he is scheduled in Illinois on Monday?

18 Ms. Brown. I believe so, yes. I don't know how long  
19 he will be there.

20 The Chairman. I agree with you; I think it is important  
21 to try to have Mr. Anderson be here. We will try to work  
22 that out.

23 Do they have proxies in the Rules Committee?

24 Mr. Devine. I don't know whether they have proxies in  
25 the Rules Committee or not.

1 Mr. Dodd. Absolutely not. No proxies.

2 The Chairman. The Chairman can't vote for Anderson,  
3 then?

4 Mr. Dodd. No, he has to be there.

5 Is there a problem?

6 Mr. Devine. His water project has been eliminated by  
7 the President and he is having a meeting in his district.

8 Mr. Dodd. You can't use the proxy, I can tell you that.  
9 I would like to see him there.

10 Mr. Devine. I would, too.

11 The Chairman. We will have to try to work that out.

12 Let us get back to the discussion of the report and  
13 other matters relating to the report.

14 Is everyone provided with a copy of the draft report?  
15 We are open to discussion relative to this draft report. How  
16 much time do we have, Mr. Sprague, in terms of being able to  
17 revise and extend this report and prepare for final prepara-  
18 tion?

19 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I asked before we recessed  
20 for lunch if I could have that time to take up with the  
21 Printing Office the matter of the printing of the transcripts  
22 that have been turned over to you and the matter of the  
23 printing of this report.

24 We have been advised that if we get to the Printing  
25 Office by 6:00 p.m. this evening, the transcripts, as corrected,

1 they will have them fully printed up for us this Friday  
2 morning. The same would apply, by the way, with regard to  
3 this report. It will be printed up for us this Friday morning.

4 If we are unable to do that, we can have the report  
5 and/or the transcripts for them by 6:00 p.m. tomorrow morning,  
6 they will have either or both of those items printed up Monday  
7 morning.

8 The Chairman. I guess this part of the whole equation  
9 will be a question of whether some members will want to have  
10 supplemental or additional views to submit in the report, also.  
11 I assume they will prepare those.

12 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, will we need to take action  
13 in the committee when we have a quorum to dispense with the  
14 usual three days for minority views or for separate concurring  
15 views?

16 The Chairman. I would imagine that we would have to,  
17 in light of the time constraints here.

18 Mr. Fithian. I have no separate or dissenting views,  
19 but I wanted to make sure we don't get tripped up on a techni-  
20 cality.

21 The Chairman. I don't know whether everyone has suffi-  
22 cient time to be able to get through these or not; to discuss  
23 them.

24 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Chairman.

25 The Chairman. Mr. Preyer.

1 Mr. Preyer. If no one else has a comment, initially,  
2 I would like to ask a couple of questions about the ending  
3 part of the report.

4 I thought it would sound a lot more sterile than it  
5 really sounds. It sounds more interesting or intriguing than  
6 I thought it would.

7 I wonder about the Amlash incident? One reason I ask  
8 is that I thought that incident which is not new, of course,  
9 and so we can't take credit for developing all of that, it  
10 gives us an opportunity to say a couple of those quotes there  
11 along the lines that the process by which the intelligence  
12 agency gathering went along has been compromised.

13 Therefore, to make the point which I probably over-  
14 emphasized, that if we don't have to necessarily come out  
15 with a new result in the Amlash case to justify, that whole  
16 process is void, ab initio, and that is a good enough reason  
17 for going ahead with it.

18 That Amlash case has some good quotes on it. I wonder  
19 why you left out Amlash in this.

20 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Preyer, my thinking there is that we  
21 had made reference in the earlier report, the end of last  
22 year, to the U.S. Senate Select Committee's statement. That  
23 is in that earlier report, at least their statement, after  
24 having gone into Amlash, and that to put that in here would  
25 look almost like we were repeating it.

1 Mr. Preyer. You were considering both of these reports  
2 together?

3 Mr. Sprague. Yes. As a matter of fact, in part of this  
4 report we have made reference to material in the final report.

5 Mr. Preyer. I have one specific question. At the top  
6 of page 12, the question about Ruby and Oswald. You say,  
7 "The Committee staff has spoken with a witness."

8 Maybe we have just spoken with a witness, but is there  
9 more than one witness on that subject?

10 Mr. Tanenbaum. No, that was the young lady that indi-  
11 cated.

12 Mr. Preyer. There was a witness there who said that.

13 The other comment I would make, and I think it is impor-  
14 tant, is that we emphasize where we can what is new and what  
15 is not just a rehashing of old evidence. Like that one at  
16 the top of page 12, necessarily you have to be very cautious  
17 in that case, but that is a brand new witness, as I understand  
18 it.

19 Mr. Tanenbaum. That is correct.

20 Mr. Preyer. I wonder there and in other instances where  
21 you have a chance to emphasize that the staff came up with  
22 this witness, he may have been known before but he never  
23 testified before, if we could have emphasized he never testi-  
24 fied, he is new and it is not a rehash, that would be good; I  
25 think that makes a good strong statement.



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1 The Chairman. Mr. Devine.

2 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman, perhaps I am overly sensitive  
3 about the problems that this committee has had since its  
4 conception until such time as you became chairman. I am a  
5 little troubled by the wording of the first paragraph on page  
6 2.

7 I think we belabor that too much, going into too much  
8 detail about all these budgetary restrictions, and I have  
9 rewritten some language for paragraphs 1 and 2 that I think  
10 would be less inflammatory and still do the job. It would  
11 read like this.

12 "For technical and administrative reasons, the committee  
13 had some delays in the course of the investigation. For  
14 example, the committee did not have access to certain files on  
15 the assassinations for approximately two months; telephone  
16 service was disconnected for the same period, preventing the  
17 staff from maintaining contact with witnesses and potential  
18 witnesses; and other problems which severely restricted the  
19 committee in its investigative efforts."

20 I don't think we should lean on the budgetary restric-  
21 tions, because that is one of the problems that we have to  
22 overcome in both the Rules Committee and on the Floor.

23 I don't think that we should talk about specifically  
24 what our problems were. I think the language suggested would  
25 probably tell the same story.

1 Then the next three-line paragraph, I don't like what  
2 you say: "...many of the impediments have been removed,"  
3 under the chairmanship of Mr. Stokes. I would like to have  
4 them believe they all have been.

5 My suggestion on that is in line 2 of the second para-  
6 graph strike out "many of" and "impediments" and insert  
7 "problems" instead of "impediments" and strike out "removed"  
8 and insert "resolved." That would read: "Under the chairman-  
9 ship of Representative Louis Stokes, the problems have been  
10 resolved and the investigations are now resuming in a  
11 thorough manner."

12 I am not married to the language, Mr. Chairman, but I  
13 think that it would be less provocative.

14 The Chairman. I agree with you.

15 The staff will take that into consideration.

16 Is there anything else?

17 Mr. Devine. That is all, Mr. Chairman. I scanned it  
18 during the luncheon period. By and large, I think it will  
19 do the job.

20 The Chairman. I wonder if I can sort of react to the  
21 "investigation" part here.

22 I guess, Mr. Sprague, I will direct the question to you  
23 and to Mr. Tanenbaum. I am concerned that with reference to  
24 the investigatory material that appears in the report, that  
25 we do not have the news media once again taking another shot

1 at us in the sense of their rehashing the same old stuff  
2 which gives our opposition on the Floor the arguments that  
3 they need. They will very hastily say to George Lardner or  
4 some other author who is an authority on each one of these  
5 investigations -- I guess I am wondering whether that section  
6 needs to be reworked or less data included, we need to make  
7 more reference to the fact that there is within our possession  
8 much more sensitive and highly volatile information that  
9 just cannot be disclosed in light of this type of investiga-  
10 tion and that type of thing.

11 I am just wondering whether we need to go this way.

12 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, that really hits the nub  
13 of the problem, because to have something is going to cause  
14 the problem; that it is so limited as to make it appear what  
15 in the world is being done, and on the other hand, to just  
16 have that it is so sensitive creates, I guess, the problem  
17 that we are going to be criticized. Are we just hiding behind  
18 a label and not disclosing?

19 What we have attempted to do and really part of the  
20 reason that this has not been submitted to you, as I indicated  
21 it would be on Monday, is that we have gone through a number  
22 of drafts. What you have here is a tremendously toned down  
23 version of what existed, trying to really incorporate and put  
24 into writing what has been the comments and suggestions by  
25 members of the committee.

og 10  
1 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman.

2 I think, Mr. Sprague, what concerns the Chairman and most  
3 of us is that any material contained in this proposed report,  
4 whether there is a balance between so-called new material  
5 which has already been revealed in the Warren Commission  
6 report and the Senate Intelligence Committee report -- is it  
7 all a rehash of those two things or is there enough new stuff  
8 to show that we are not just rubber stamping or rehashing old  
9 material?

10 Mr. Sprague. Part of the problem, Mr. Devine, is that  
11 it is hard to say something is new as opposed to rehash,  
12 because in fact people have read everything under the sun.  
13 Somebody may well suggest, and I am sure has suggested, that  
14 Ruby and Oswald had been in contact prior to the assassination.

15 Ruby knew Oswald. What is new, in a sense here from out  
16 standpoint, is that we have located a witness who apparently  
17 says that. The allegation may be old and in terms of proof  
18 that may be nil.

19 Obviously in this investigation, one of the things that  
20 we are doing is looking into what has been alleged to be able  
21 to prove or disprove so that to go into what we are doing is  
22 going to, of necessity, raise things that have been raised  
23 right along. That is one of the reasons that we are doing it.

24 The Chairman. Here is what I have in mind. From the two  
25 documents that were prepared, final documents, we were able

1 to take those two documents along with the oral presentations  
2 and we were able to convince both the leadership of the House  
3 and most of the Rules Committee members that we were on to  
4 something here that needs to be continued.

5 As a result of that, I doubt that the Rules Committee is  
6 going to really want us to get into disclosing what we feel  
7 we are on to here.

8 Now the question is in terms of this presentation here  
9 will we get the same kind of result that we have gotten last?  
10 Obviously we can't name names as we did the other day. I know  
11 the media are sitting here waiting to tear us apart on this  
12 report, and we have to out-think them.

13 I am just wondering, are we hurting ourselves with this  
14 approach here right now?

15 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I really don't know what  
16 else could be included. I am struck by the fact that Mr.  
17 Preyer, in reading the Kennedy aspect, said it came out  
18 stronger than he thought it would. From that standpoint, I  
19 would assume that it would be somewhat helpful. To limit it  
20 further raises the problem that if we are going to be attacked,  
21 that we obviously are not doing much.

22 The Chairman. You don't see a problem here revealing  
23 this much?

24 Mr. Preyer. I think it is a problem all right, as you  
25 have outlined it.

1 The Chairman. I think we can make a statement that  
2 there are in both cases witnesses who have talked to investi-  
3 gators who have never been interviewed before, never given a  
4 statement before, substantive in nature, and so forth.

5 Mr. Preyer. I am wondering what is new, looking through  
6 the Kennedy thing, and is not a rehash.

7 On page 11, second paragraph, "Oswald was associated  
8 with anti-Castro groups." There is new evidence on this,  
9 isn't there; it has not been rehashed?

10 Mr. Sprague. That is correct.

11 Mr. Preyer. The second paragraph; the Hunt letter is  
12 new. That has just recently surfaced.

13 On page 12, top paragraph, that is new. In other words,  
14 the first three paragraphs, each I think can be defended as  
15 new evidence.

16 Trafficante, I don't know whether that witness surfaced  
17 before or not that we are talking about now.

18 The Chairman. What would trouble me on page 12 is that  
19 the committee "received information, not yet corroborated."

20 I think the news media would take you apart on that;  
21 "received information, not yet corroborated." What does that  
22 mean?

23 Mr. Preyer. I wonder if we should not make some blanket  
24 statement at the outset or at the close of it that we empha-  
25 size these are all leads; they have not been subjected to

1 cross-examination or polygraph test or the usual test of  
2 corroboration, but they are the kinds of things that are so  
3 important, if true, that they must be run down, that we should  
4 be allowed to corroborate and cross-examine them.

5 I think we would be making a mistake to try to give an  
6 impression that these things are all true. Then if they  
7 blow up in our face, we will really be in trouble.

8 Mr. Dodd. I think your point is well taken.

9 Possibly in the very beginning, I think we get ourselves  
10 into a box where one puts the purpose of support? Are we  
11 supposed to be able, in the period of time we have been in  
12 existence, to come up with corroborated, conclusive evidence  
13 that would convince the Congress we should go forward?

14 I think everyone in the Congress knows what difficulty  
15 this committee has had over the past couple of months. The  
16 language would have to be chosen carefully. I think if you  
17 stated at the outset what the purpose of the report was and  
18 that was to bring up to date the members of Congress with  
19 regard to the activity of the committee, the hurdles that they  
20 have had to overcome and so forth, and not allow ourselves to  
21 be put in the position of trying to defend the material we  
22 have with conclusive evidence which has not been brought up  
23 at one time in the past -- I see us getting into a situation  
24 where we are really boxed in.

25 Mr. Preyer. If we could disarm the press at the outset

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1 by saying "Sure, this is uncorroborated."

2 We will say it has raised questions and we have to run  
3 it down.

4 Mr. Dodd. We don't want to get ourselves in a position  
5 of saying we have not been able to get into this stuff and it  
6 is thoroughly because of our problems, which is one thing we  
7 have been saying, which is a fact, which is true, and then to  
8 also come forward with evidence that we have had an opportunity  
9 to examine thoroughly, that is contradictory.

10 I think we ought to make to clear in the beginning that  
11 is not our intention in this report, to defend necessarily  
12 that kind of evidence being fact.

13 The Chairman. It may be that we can approach it from  
14 the viewpoint of saying, we refer back to the time that the  
15 committee was originally constituted, it was constituted as  
16 a direct result of the unanswered questions that were apparent  
17 as relates to both these deaths.

18 Obviously, the short period of four months or so that  
19 this committee has been constituted, these questions are still  
20 unanswered and we are in the process, within the limited  
21 time we have had of developing the leads and other information  
22 that has come to us and that I think we can say that some of  
23 the leads and information that have come to us have never  
24 before surfaced, without being sensational or wrong, but to  
25 show that there is an ongoing progressive state of an



1 investigation. In that regard, I think, further, we can say  
2 that obviously there are things we cannot include in this  
3 report because of the sensitive nature of the investigation.

4 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I thought we really had, in  
5 a sense, responded to what is being raised now, because on  
6 page 2 at the beginning we do say in the bottom paragraph;  
7 "While the committee believes that the new leads must be  
8 vigorously pursued, we emphasize the fact that it is impossible  
9 to predict whether the information will be proven reliable  
10 and capable of verification. The investigations are in their  
11 infancy and, therefore, the committee cannot submit verifiable  
12 conclusions with respect to the assassinations before the  
13 inquiry is completed and the evidence gathered, tested and  
14 corroborated."

15 I thought that would address itself to what Mr. Preyer  
16 was saying in the beginning.

17 The reason in the latter part dealing with Trafficante  
18 on page 12 where it says, "The committee has received infor-  
19 mation, not yet corroborated," was that we wanted to keep the  
20 credibility of this committee at the highest level, and even  
21 though there is that statement at the beginning, we thought  
22 it well to reemphasize that with regard to that particular  
23 information so as not to be caught off base, because I would  
24 hate to get in the posture for this committee where we are  
25 making one statement with a number of others and then somebody

1 goes out and proves that one statement is untrue and that  
2 giving an implication that everything else is down the drain  
3 as well.

4 That is why I thought we covered really what you are  
5 raising here.

6 Mr. Dodd. I am suggesting rather than that, that should  
7 be the first paragraph. That is out immediately. This is  
8 the first thought that is in this report that we are not, in  
9 effect, saying that it is in its infancy, we have not had a  
10 chance or opportunity to corroborate all the evidence and  
11 testimony come forward because of the obvious restraints the  
12 committee has operated under, and so forth. I think that  
13 ought to be the first thing that we say.

14 I think that, in a sense, will get us off the hook of  
15 having to defend each and every statement that is in here with  
16 regard to potential witnesses, evidence and so forth.

17 Mr. Sprague. We just want to be very careful, like that  
18 Trafficante-Ruby situation. We can put it more in the  
19 beginning than we have it. We did not want it thought that  
20 this committee representing the House of Representatives is  
21 making the statement, nonetheless, because if things are not  
22 put in a cautionary sense, it is going to have the weight of  
23 this committee behind it and it ought not have that where we  
24 are not able to say that definitively.

25 The Chairman. Mrs. Burke.

1 Mrs. Burke. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

2 Before we get too far along, I wanted to ask if it is  
3 possible to clarify who Mr. Maheu was. We know, but every  
4 time I have heard the name or the name said, I have heard  
5 someone say "Is this the same Maheu?"

6 Could there be some sentence there explaining which  
7 Maheu and the fact that I guess he testified to certain things  
8 before the Church Committee?

9 Was it the Church Committee?

10 Mr. Sprague. That is correct.

11 I will certainly put in who he is and his statement  
12 that he was in fact recruited for this purpose.

13 Mrs. Burke. The next thing I am saying is something I  
14 am not sure about the reaction politically.

15 The allegation that we go on here, the CIA, FBI, and  
16 various things. If I could argue both sides.

17 It does raise confirmation of suspicions that some people  
18 have. On the other side, there are many people I find in the  
19 House that, unless there is something that they can really  
20 cling to, they are terrified by the idea of criticizing our  
21 intelligence agency.

22 The statement, for instance, in here that Hoover tried  
23 to mislead the Warren Commission. From my experience, and my  
24 own experience relates to appropriations where we reviewed,  
25 for instance, the CIA budget, where we took a vote there and

1 the majority of the members of that committee voted not to  
2 know what was in the CIA budget, the idea being that there is  
3 this terrible apprehension of criticizing those agencies.

4 So, I just want to raise the question, realizing that  
5 maybe the people who feel that way would never vote for us  
6 anyhow, which is a possibility, but I am not sure, and I  
7 would just throw that out, Mr. Chairman.

8 The Chairman. I think the gentlewoman's observations  
9 are well taken.

10 The gentleman from Maryland said he had originally voted  
11 for it, but now he understood that it would embarrass the FBI  
12 and like that, he used the FBI in his objections the last time.  
13 He opposed the resolution.

14 I think that is something we might rethink, in light of  
15 that knowledge. What we wind up doing is one thing, but it  
16 might not be necessary for us to telegraph it.

17 Mr. Sprague. May I respond, Mr. Chairman and Mrs. Burke?

18 We put it in, and it is on page 14 really dealing with  
19 "The committee has obtained evidence suggesting the actual  
20 destruction of evidence."

21 That, in fact, is something that is known and that the  
22 Federal Bureau of Investigation has admitted. It is not a  
23 disclosing of something unknown there. It seems to us that  
24 not putting in a matter that is concerned with the connection  
25 between Oswald and the FBI, when it already is an area that is

1 in the public domain and questions have been raised, would  
2 lead to the question why is it not mentioned since you are  
3 mentioning different things? That is the reason for that.

4 It seems to us that everything we do is going to be  
5 reviewed, subject to analysis. If this is an area involved  
6 in the investigation, if there is a feeling of not putting it  
7 in now because, let us say, someone might attack us on it, I  
8 query how thorough will be the investigation if there is a  
9 concern like that and something that is publicly known.

10 The second part dealing with the misleading statements,  
11 again, that is not based really on witness's statements.  
12 That happened to be something that is predicated upon the  
13 actual documents that exist.

14 Mrs. Burke. If this is in the public domain, I would  
15 think it should be stated specifically, rather than "The  
16 committee has information" it should be saying that evidence  
17 has already been corroborated or there have already been  
18 statements before committees that Oswald had a link with the  
19 CIA. If we have it in the public domain, I think it should  
20 be specifically stated.

21 The Chairman. Mr. Tanenbaum, isn't that in the Warren  
22 Commission report?

23 Mr. Tanenbaum. What is in the report is that Oswald  
24 had some pro-Castro views. There is nothing there that  
25 indicates that he had links to the CIA, that we have, namely,

1 through Feliciano. That is new; it is not in the public  
2 domain.

3 The Chairman. I thought the Warren Commission sent  
4 their counsel to J. Edgar Hoover for the purpose of his mak-  
5 ing inquiry as to whether Oswald was one of their agents or  
6 not.

7 Mr. Tanenbaum. That happened in executive session on two  
8 occasions in January 1964.

9 The Chairman. Mr. Fithian.

10 Mr. Fithian. I share some of the concerns of Mrs. Burke.

11 I am wondering if, on page 14, we might not want to do  
12 it slightly differently. I think that we ought to indicate  
13 at the beginning of that paragraph at the top of the page  
14 that "It has already been established that," or some such  
15 wording, if that is the case, and then I am wondering if we  
16 might not drop the rather accusative paragraph which follows  
17 involving the CIA, et cetera, "must be fully scrutinized."

18 It does seem to cast this whole inquiry and investigation  
19 into sort of an investigation of the FBI and CIA. Some  
20 aspects of those two agencies obviously have come into review.

21 I am wondering if we need to irritate those members who  
22 otherwise might go along with us. I have found one of the  
23 more effective arguments with some members of the House is to  
24 argue the case that we ought to clearly delineate, in the  
25 course of this investigation, exactly what administrative

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1 procedures were and were not followed by agencies of the  
2 government in order to establish whether or not there is  
3 need for legislative remedy. One of the things we do not  
4 point to in this report -- maybe we don't want to; maybe  
5 that is jumping the gun -- but it does seem to me to be a  
6 very convincing justification for this committee as a  
7 Congressional committee to review those procedures and to  
8 conclude sometime down the line that we ought to mandate  
9 that in times of national emergency or assassination of a  
10 President or a national leader that certain things would, of  
11 necessity, be done by these agencies; that all information  
12 would be immediately transmitted to duly constituted investi-  
13 gative bodies, or some such thing.

14 For a lot of them who are uncertain as to exactly what  
15 role either of these agencies was and there are those in the  
16 House who fall on both sides of that, they can all agree that  
17 if this investigation demonstrates a breakdown in the normal  
18 process, then it might well be the responsibility of this  
19 committee to recommend some legislation correcting the process,  
20 and that is not necessarily digging up the bones of J. Edgar  
21 Hoover; it is looking down the road ahead to prevent some  
22 breakdown in the process.

23 I am wondering if we might not want to drop words like  
24 "scrutinize," et cetera, and recast that in such a way that  
25 it simply indicates we are going to review all of these

1 processes and where they demonstrate or prove to have broken  
2 down we may want to subsequently recommend legislative remedy.  
3 That is not proving who killed JFK or Martin Luther King.  
4 It is an entirely different thrust.

5 Mr. Tanenbaum. I think a point has to be made here.  
6 That is what we are not simply saying from what we know that  
7 J. Edgar Hoover whispered in somebody's ear something that was  
8 significant; that CIA made a mistake in filing a report,  
9 we think during the course of the investigation we are going  
10 to look into those kinds of problems.

11 The two areas we have with the FBI and CIA are very  
12 significant. In fact, J. Edgar lied about a very important  
13 witness concerning their own assassin; Oswald. CIA misrepre-  
14 sented also about Lee Harvey Oswald; his alleged trip to  
15 Mexico City.

16 It seems to me that people who otherwise might not vote  
17 for this committee because they think there might be a  
18 problem in those areas might be very hard pressed, when  
19 confronted with the report, that documents based upon their  
20 own documentation, not witnesses that we have but upon things  
21 that they have themselves, that we were able to put together,  
22 they will be very hard pressed on the merits publicly to vote  
23 against the committee that has demonstrated unequivocally  
24 that both of these agencies significantly played a role in  
25 covering up, acquiescing or participating in the assassination



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1 of the President.

2 Mr. Fithian. Why don't we say "based on documents in  
3 possession of these agencies"? In other words, we are not  
4 now drafting this from newspaper accounts. It would strengthen  
5 it if we say "based upon documents in the possession of these  
6 agencies."

7 I am still wondering, instead of saying all this  
8 scrutiny business, that we might not hint at some legislative  
9 remedy. I know as an investigator you don't worry about what  
10 we might do later on in offering a bill before Congress, but  
11 that might well be the action of this committee.

12 Mr. Tanenbaum. Absolutely. I do think that it is very  
13 important that we ourselves maintain our own integrity with  
14 regard to this.

15 I agree with Mr. Stokes, there is no need to telegraph  
16 a play that may be called sometime in the future. This is a  
17 very fundamental issue and that is part of what we have  
18 already found. For us to sidestep it now, it seems to me, is  
19 not to really play fair and square with people who are in  
20 the opposition.

21 If they still wish to vote against us, knowing that we  
22 have documentation about significant major importance, power-  
23 ful misrepresentations and cover-ups, then let the record be  
24 so stated that they voted against it knowing that, rather  
25 than just simply saying that we are going to carefully

1 scrutinize or in any way politically, we can all agree.

2 This is too important to do that.

3 Mr. Preyer. I think the first paragraph does what you  
4 are talking about. It sets out, it talks about information,  
5 when corroborated. It talks about evidence.

6 I believe with Mr. Fithian on that second paragraph that  
7 there you are drawing a conclusion rather than talking about  
8 what we have in evidence. From a political point of view, it  
9 is going to antagonize some people, I am afraid. They will  
10 say we are on a crusade against the FBI and CIA.

11 I don't see how we can lose anything to either strike  
12 out the second paragraph or amend it in the form that Mr.  
13 Fithian has suggested. We are not trying to hide from any-  
14 body that we have evidence and information that they are  
15 involved.

16 The Chairman. The staff can take those suggestions in  
17 mind and work that over.

18 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, we can omit that second  
19 paragraph.

20 Mr. Devine. As a postscript to what has been said  
21 about that, I think it should be in our final report, but it  
22 can be inflammatory to those persons who are looking for  
23 excuses to vote against us.

24 We have to survive in order to get to the point to  
25 establish those things. It is not essential that this be

1 retained at this point; I think it had better go out.

2 Mr. Sprague. I think it is easy to omit that second  
3 paragraph altogether.

4 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, a small technical matter.

5 On page 10, which has the budget, would it not be helpful  
6 to put an asterisk behind that final figure at the bottom and  
7 indicate in the footnote that this figure includes the repay-  
8 ment of the \$254,000 for the funds already expended during  
9 the January to March period?

10 Those of us who work with these figures so much now  
11 know that is the case, but I think it might be helpful to  
12 other members who are reviewing the budget to know when they  
13 see the one page that has the budget in it, that that total  
14 figure at the bottom included the January-February-March  
15 repayment of funds already expended.

16 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, may I bring to Mr. Fithian's  
17 attention that the paragraph just preceding that budget  
18 figure ends with the following statement:

19 "We submit for the consideration of the members of the  
20 House the following summary of our proposed budget of 1977,  
21 which includes the funds."

22 Mr. Fithian. What I am saying is if somebody is bothered  
23 with the budget, they don't read the rest of the report.  
24 They say "That is \$2,796,000. I thought the Speaker was in  
25 favor of \$2.5 million" -- bang.

1 Mr. Sprague. We can easily put an asterisk and put that  
2 specific thing under it.

3 Mr. Anderson. Mr. Chairman, I have a brief comment, if  
4 you have not passed the point of discussing page 10 of the  
5 report.

6 I think that, to some extent, this very, very skeletal  
7 outline of the budget leaves a little bit to be desired. I  
8 am wondering why it can't be fleshed out with just a little  
9 bit more detail.

10 You have a figure here of almost \$2 million for salaries,  
11 and nothing more. I don't know, I could be wrong, but I  
12 think when the members learn that in lieu of the original  
13 contemplated staff of 170 that you are down to 115 and they  
14 are going to be phased in gradually over a period of time  
15 from the present level of 73, that I would explain that a  
16 little bit, I think, and adjust a little bit more detail on  
17 the budget.

18 The Chairman. Maybe that reconciliation sheet that you  
19 worked on this morning might be the way to do that.

20 Mr. Preyer. One suggestion has been that we put the  
21 budget plus the reconciliation statement plus some of the  
22 comments on how we got the six and a half million to \$2.7  
23 million that was made this morning into the Congressional  
24 Record, print the whole detailed budget in the Congressional  
25 Record. I think your point is a good one.

1 Looking at that cold there, it looks bare.

2 Mr. Anderson. At least on the salary item, I would like  
3 to see a little more detail.

4 The Chairman. Where is Tom Howarth?

5 Mr. Sprague. I think he is working on budget for the  
6 Appropriations Committee right now, Mr. Chairman, but we can  
7 follow through on that.

8 The Chairman. Mrs. Burke.

9 Mrs. Burke. Mr. Chairman, how many staff members did the  
10 Watergate Committee have?

11 Mr. Devine. In addition to the staff members, they had  
12 the total cooperated of all the FBI, Secret Service and the  
13 State Department and everybody else. I don't know the number  
14 of persons on the staff payroll. I think it is in our ori-  
15 ginal report.

16 Mr. Sprague. Are you talking about Warren Commission  
17 or Watergate?

18 Mrs. Burke. Watergate.

19 Mr. Sprague. Watergate, I do not know.

20 Mrs. Burke. The Judiciary inquiry, Impeachment Committee?

21 Mr. Sprague. I have a recollection somewhere of 120.

22 Mrs. Burke. This is one of the things that was raised  
23 with me by some of the people who served on that committee,  
24 and I was trying to get the correct figures.

25 Mr. Sprague. We can get that. It is 110.

1 Mrs. Burke. I think it is good for us to know.

2 The Chairman. Mr. Fithian.

3 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that in our  
4 own handling of this, that we point out or emphasize in our  
5 discussions the point Mr. Dodd raised; the fact that there  
6 are two investigations going on, so any members we have can  
7 be divided by two.

8 I am wondering if we might not follow up so that the  
9 staff has very specific instructions on what Mr. Anderson  
10 has raised with regard to fleshing out the budget. I am very  
11 much in favor of the total budget we discussed this morning  
12 and Mr. Preyer's remarks going into the Congressional Record.

13 I don't know how much is appropriate to include in here,  
14 although I am not one to worry about duplication of places  
15 that members of Congress could find to read this thing,  
16 because if we tried to get at them both through the Congres-  
17 sional Record and this, they will think there is something  
18 wrong with it.

19 I am wondering if we could give the staff some very  
20 specific direction as to how much of the budget and how much  
21 of the material you are going to put in the Congressional  
22 Record is going to be printed on pages 10 and succeeding  
23 pages.

24 Mr. Preyer. One thing that occurs to me is that we could  
25 print the new budget here and put a column of the original

1 budget beside it so that you could see how much salary had  
2 been reduced and so forth, and that would give you the oppor-  
3 tunity to then put a page of comment under salaries and  
4 explain that this reduction came about by reducing to a total  
5 115 from the original total, and that sort of thing.

6 Mr. Fithian. And then perhaps some comment at the  
7 bottom that would indicate that anyone who wants to peruse  
8 the entire budget and explanation of it should see pages  
9 X, Y, Z in the Congressional Record of such and such a date.

10 I think we are not giving too clear a road map where  
11 they can find the information. They are all pressed for time  
12 as we are. If we have in there, indicating on pages whatever  
13 it is, in tomorrow's Congressional Record they can find the  
14 entire budget, at least it cuts the ground out from under them  
15 by saying in the course of the debate, "Well, you don't pre-  
16 sent us with enough information on this budget to know whether  
17 to support you or not."

18 It arms us a little better for the debate if we do that.

19 The Chairman. I suppose the headlines will be, "The  
20 committee cut the Sprague budget by \$4 million, anyway."

21 Mr. Sprague. The committee cut Sprague.

22 Mr. Fithian. I see here Item 3, "Consulting Services."  
23 It seems to me that at our task force meeting, Mr. Chairman,  
24 we had some discussion about spelling out something there,  
25 about experts or something, forensic services, scientific

1 services, so that it did not sound like it was a sludge fund  
2 for consultants, knowing the way the House operates.

3 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Chairman, I have gone through the report  
4 and have a bunch of little technical changes and some that  
5 are a little more substantive.

6 I wonder if we might start with some of those.

7 The Chairman. Sure.

8 Mr. Dodd. On page 1, second paragraph after the words  
9 "Martin Luther King, Jr.," for clarity's sake you talk about  
10 "despite the eight years since these final conclusions were  
11 reached" and so forth.

12 On page 2 at the very bottom this language might go  
13 toward the front. "The investigations are in their infancy  
14 and, therefore, the committee cannot submit verifiable con-  
15 clusions with respect to the assassinations."

16 I would change the language to read, "Before all the  
17 evidence is gathered, tested and corroborated, and inquiry is  
18 completed."

19 Page three, I have a question on the very first sentence,  
20 "While the committee is pursuing new information, it has also  
21 undertaken to initiate an exhaustive de novo investigation of  
22 the assassinations."

23 It seems to me from the Rules Committee discussion and  
24 others is this to be a de novo investigation or are we going  
25 to be relying on testimony, evidence and so forth? Maybe I



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1 still unclear. I thought this was not going to be a completely  
2 de novo investigation. That is a fundamental question. I  
3 thought we were going to be in with those things already  
4 established, we are not going to go back to the very first  
5 moment in time.

6 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I think that is a pretty  
7 fundamental question. I have been under the assumption that  
8 we are going back to ground level number one, because part of  
9 the problem that would exist if it is not de novo is how do  
10 we know that which is in fact so?

11 We must start at the beginning. There are, obviously,  
12 things along the way that have been established; there there  
13 is not going to be any difficulty in our reestablishing. But  
14 it seems to me that is where we start.

15 Mr. Dodd. Maybe I am suggesting that there is some  
16 language after that sentence which would say, in effect, just  
17 what you have said that obviously, where evidence has been  
18 established as being conclusive, the committee is not going out  
19 to reestablish that evidence.

20 The Chairman. Will the gentleman yield to me?

21 Mr. Dodd. Sure.

22 The Chairman. I suppose what you are saying by eliminat-  
23 ing the words de novo you could say "initiate an exhaustive  
24 investigation of the assassinations," which includes going  
25 back to the beginning, wherever you have to. I think de novo

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1 might engender some discussion. We still can do what we have  
2 to.

3 Mr. Dodd. That is a kind of fuse word language to our  
4 colleagues, to hear the word de novo.

5 Mr. Fauntroy. I wonder if I may speak to that.

6 I have not had an opportunity to read this, but it seems  
7 to me what has been effective in my discussions with other  
8 members has been to say that the committee is actually active  
9 in two areas.

10 First, that we are identifying documents, evidence,  
11 names and locations of witnesses and the like that are  
12 available to us through both state, local and federal agencies.  
13 We are identifying that.

14 And that we are also, secondly, and I hope this language  
15 is included in this draft, we are also in the process of  
16 looking at new and previously unpursued leads.

17 With those two things on the way, obviously we have to  
18 do, in my judgment, a de novo investigation. Once we have  
19 in hand everything that everybody has that we have looked at,  
20 then we do the investigation and come right up.

21 Secondly, in the process I have been saying, we are  
22 doing it. Like being cut off from the FBI files; we are  
23 looking at all of them. In the meantime, there have been  
24 some new leads.

25 What perks up people, in my judgment, is when you say

1 new and unpursued leads. I would hope that we hold to the  
2 idea of doing the investigation but having in hand when we  
3 do it, when we go to sit down at ground zero and say that we  
4 are at the Rainbow Motel, we know everybody else who was  
5 there and where they are.

6 The Chairman. You would agree with Mr. Dodd's reasons?

7 Mr. Fauntroy. Make it de novo.

8 Mr. Dodd. The last paragraph on page 3, "Now that the  
9 committee has adopted rules of procedure and proposed a bud-  
10 get, we are ready to continue."

11 I am changing the word "concentrate" to "continue." I  
12 think the concept should be woven through the entire report  
13 that this is a continuing function we are undergoing and not  
14 something we are concentrating on. Change the word  
15 "concentrate" to "continuing."

16 On page 4 -- and this was raised by Mr. Fithian in part --  
17 at the beginning of that Section II A, I would like to  
18 include here and anywhere else the staff may find helpful,  
19 this restated concept of legislative action at the conclusion  
20 of this inquiry.

21 Again, from a Judiciary Committee standpoint, one of  
22 their major concerns is that our resolution and our efforts  
23 be designed ultimately to result in legislation to come out  
24 of this committee, not just a criminal investigation. The  
25 language I have added here is, "The task of investigating

1 these two murders, especially as they relate to identifying  
2 possibly future legislative action by Congress was commenced  
3 under resolution," and so forth.

4 I will read it again. After the words "two murders,"  
5 "especially as they relate to identifying possibly immediate  
6 future legislative action by the Congress." That is something  
7 I feel we should emphasize, the legislative intent, because  
8 it is one of the major criticisms we face.

9 On page 5, paragraph B, "The 95th Congress," going down  
10 to the beginning of the third sentence with the words  
11 "thereafter," after "February 2, 1977." "Thereafter, on  
12 March 8, 1977, Congressman Louis Stokes was appointed  
13 Chairman by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
14 the committee was again reorganized and continued to pursue  
15 the investigation."

16 Again the word "continuance." This is the period, that  
17 month, that I think is important so far as I have understood  
18 it, that even though the phones were cut off and even though  
19 the access was eliminated to the FBI, the staff was still  
20 working, research was being done and so forth.

21 I think it might be important that during that month's  
22 period, the emphasis was on continual operation; crippled  
23 though it was, it was still a continuing investigation.

24 Mrs. Burke. There is no mention here of the former  
25 Chairman Gonzales. I think there are people who are

1 immediately saying "and they did not even mention his name."

2 Mr. Dodd. We can put in subliminal cuts.

3 Mrs. Burke. I think we have to give some recognition  
4 of the fact that he was the chairman at some time. Believe  
5 me, there are a lot of people who are very sensitive on  
6 this point, I am telling you, arguing and discussing and  
7 rationalizing that we are trying to say that he has not been  
8 just overlooked and slighted and everything else.

9 I think we have to put some reference that he was  
10 chairman.

11 Mr. Fithian. I would suggest that perhaps we could  
12 establish credit where credit is due very early in the report  
13 on the creation of the committee, but saying in respect "In  
14 response to the resolution proffered in the House by Henry  
15 Gonzales (D) Texas, when he first introduced the resolution,"  
16 which goes back a long way, "and Mr. Downing's resolution."

17 In other words, we can point to both their resolutions  
18 as being the fathers --

19 Mrs. Burke. That is not true.

20 Mr. Fithian. I am not suggesting that we put anything  
21 in that is not true.

22 Mr. Fauntroy. Explain it to him.

23 Mrs. Burke. Those resolutions were introduced and those  
24 resolutions were voted on and defeated in March 1976. The  
25 only reason that those resolutions were passed was the

1 compromise reached on the resolution introduced by Mr.  
2 Fauntroy.

3 It was a matter that the only reason the resolution  
4 came up on there before the Rules Committee was that we had  
5 obtained a change in position and support for another resolu-  
6 tion just out of courtesy and we had to wait for the matter  
7 of having an old resolution overlooked, that those resolu-  
8 tions were brought up.

9 That is a very misunderstood point.

10 Mr. Fithian. To give credit where credit is due in  
11 including the Martin Luther King resolution?

12 Mrs. Burke. They were not before the House.

13 Mr. Fithian. As a member who came to the Congress  
14 first just one term ago for many, many months whenever dis-  
15 cussion of the investigation of reopening the Warren  
16 Commission came up, it is my clear impression that there was  
17 only one name associated with that and that was Henry  
18 Gonzales.

19 Mrs. Burke. All of that was over and it had been voted  
20 upon and the whole matter was set to rest. It was only  
21 brought up again in the context of the King resolution, and  
22 this was a matter of just, really it was just a matter of  
23 having a vehicle rather than just overlooking it.

24 The Chairman. That is an important point that the  
25 gentlewoman is bringing up, because among the members on the

1 Floor that is not understood, but that is the fact.

2 Mr. Fauntroy. I did attempt to explain to the former  
3 chairman when he cut off access to the FBI materials by the  
4 staff that he was overlooking the fact that the only reason  
5 he had access was that I was kind enough to accept --

6 Mr. Dodd. Let us go off the record.

7 (Discussion off the record.)

8 Mr. Devine. "Congressman Louis Stokes was appointed  
9 chairman by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
10 succeeding Henry B. Gonzales."

11 Strike out "and" and start the next sentence, "Immediately,  
12 the committee was again reorganized."

13 The Chairman. Would it not be better, Sam, if we said  
14 this: "After February 2, 1977." "Upon adoption of this  
15 resolution, Henry B. Gonzales was appointed chairman of the  
16 committee." Then thereafter "on March 8th."

17 Mr. Devine. Either way.

18 The Chairman. It follows a more logical sequence.

19 Mr. Devine. Either way.

20 The Chairman. Does that sound okay?

21 All right.

22 Mr. Dodd. The next paragraph on page 5, beginning with  
23 the language, "One of the first actions was adoption of the  
24 rules of procedure" and then this next sentence I have added  
25 language, "This item was a major requirement of the House and

1 it is the committee's belief that these rules are outstanding"  
2 and then I have added here other language: "in their recog-  
3 nition of the requirement of due process, orderly investi-  
4 gations and emphasis on strict controls of staff activities  
5 and may become a model for investigative committees in the  
6 future."

7 To repeat, after the word "outstanding," "in their  
8 recognition of the requirement for due process, orderly  
9 investigations and emphasis on strict controls of staff acti-  
10 vity."

11 In the next paragraph, "A task force of the committee  
12 was appointed to consider the budgetary and staff require-  
13 ments of the ensuing year. In addition, the committee  
14 reaffirmed the decision to divide into two subcommittees."

15 Mr. Edgar. If the gentleman will yield at this point  
16 where you are reaffirming and dividing into two subcommittees,  
17 I notice on the front page, the third page in, it is not  
18 numbered, where it lists the members of the committee, it  
19 lists our chairman and each of our members, I wonder, since  
20 we have made the division, whether we ought not to put the  
21 two names of our chief investigators into the King and  
22 Kennedy assassinations to highlight to the members of the  
23 House that not only is Dick Sprague the Chief Counsel, but in  
24 fact Mr. Tanenbaum and Mr. Lehner are working as lead people.

25 I think it would be helpful for the rest of Congress to



1 know that there are those two persons pursuing those two  
2 independent investigations.

3 The Chairman. That can be done without any problem.

4 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, could we also include in  
5 that the two chief investigators on this?

6 Mr. Edgar. I don't have any problem with that. I just  
7 wanted some way of showing the substance of the number of  
8 people who are on staff who are top staff personnel who are  
9 pursuing the investigations.

10 Mr. Fithian. I think the value of doing what he is  
11 suggesting is that it is a graphic way of saying there are  
12 two investigations underway here which subconsciously may  
13 affect or impact on some people who say, well, there are too  
14 many staff, or whatever.

15 It would show at the outset that we have Mr. Tanenbaum,  
16 Mr. Lehner and the chief investigator under that organiza-  
17 tional chart appearance. I think we would do a lot to trans-  
18 mit to them directly.

19 Some people may flip this over and see who is on this  
20 committee anyway. That might be the only page some people  
21 read, so far as I know.

22 The Chairman. Okay, fine. The staff will take care of  
23 that.

24 Mr. Dodd. On page 6, I changed the language "Mr.  
25 Fauntroy, again, was appointed," to "remains as chairman of

1 the King subcommittee and Mr. Preyer the chairman of the  
2 Kennedy subcommittee."

3 I am trying to show flow rather than emphasizing the  
4 breakup the committee went through during this traumatic  
5 period, to emphasize flow and continuity.

6 The end of the next paragraph, paragraph beginning, "A  
7 meeting was immediately arranged," I have added a sentence at  
8 the end of the last sentence there to read, "Access to FBI  
9 materials on both assassinations was continued."

10 Dropping down to the two paragraphs, the paragraph  
11 beginning with the words "On March 11, 1977," going to the  
12 very end of that paragraph, changing the period after the  
13 word "consultants" to a comma and adding the following lan-  
14 guage: "including ballistics testing of the alleged rifle  
15 used to murder Dr. King."

16 The next paragraph, beginning with the language, "On  
17 March 16, 1977," and the second sentence in, "The witness  
18 refused to testify, claiming his privileges under the First,  
19 Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments," not just the Fifth  
20 Amendment.

21 Further in the next sentence, "The staff continues to  
22 explore the leads developed in this area, and the committee  
23 is considering recalling this witness to pursue these ques-  
24 tions," again to reflect the status with which the witness  
25 left the committee.

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1 The Chairman. I think the official language was that  
2 he remains under subpoena to this committee.

3 Mr. Dodd. Correct.

4 Maybe that would be better said that way then "and he  
5 remains under subpoena."

6 On page 7, under "Rules of Procedure," a technical  
7 amendment. "Congressman James J. Delaney" and "Chairman of  
8 the House Committee on Rules" is the proper title of that  
9 committee.

10 On page 9, subsection D, "Staff and Budget," the second  
11 sentence, "The committee has," and I have changed the language,  
12 "been fully briefed" to "discussed at length."

13 Mr. Edgar. Going back to page 7 where the American  
14 Civil Liberties Union letter is noted, I have noted in a  
15 number of reports they do include letters from the Administra-  
16 tion and letters from other people.

17 I wonder what the value would be to make that statement  
18 and then include the letter from the American Civil Liberties  
19 Union. Is that a bad idea or excellent idea?

20 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, may I be heard on that?

21 The Chairman. Mr. Sprague.

22 Mr. Sprague. I think it is a bad idea, for the reason  
23 that although that letter now supports the rules and supports  
24 the continuation of the investigation, they state things that  
25 we allegedly were going to do in the past which we never were

1 going to do. It happens to be a good illustration of the  
2 falsity of things that had been spread around.

3 I do not think that we ought to have their letter here,  
4 since it does state things absolutely contrary to what we  
5 ever intended to do.

6 Mr. Fithian. On many occasions, including in this  
7 report, however, there are examples of simply taking or quot-  
8 ing from insufficient sentences; we in the profession do this  
9 all the time. We don't use a whole six-page letter when  
10 there is only a half page that is pertinent.

11 You put in an elipsis and the three sentences you want  
12 and you go on. It is called selective evidence, Mr. Chairman.

13 Mr. Sprague. The trouble with that is that you end up  
14 with a blank letter.

15 The Chairman. The essence of the letter was the fact  
16 that this quote as contained here was the real essence of it.

17 Mr. Devine. I know a number of members that if they see  
18 the ACLU favors the investigation, they will vote against it.

19 The Chairman. That is right. It is a red flag for some  
20 of the members.

21 Mr. Dodd. On page 12, top of page 12, the second  
22 sentence, "The committee staff has spoken with the witness  
23 who stated that in November 1963, prior to the assassination  
24 of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced  
25 to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby," has that been

1 corroborated or is that a fact?

2 Mr. Tanenbaum. Yes, it is a fact.

3 Mr. Dodd. It has been corroborated; the committee has  
4 received information not yet corroborated that Ruby traveled  
5 to Cuba and so forth?

6 Mr. Tanenbaum. I am just trying to protect you.

7 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Dodd, the statement that is there is  
8 absolutely correct. In other words, we have interviewed a  
9 witness who has stated that. We are not in a position of  
10 saying whether what that witness is saying is true or not.  
11 That is different than the next sentence which is based upon  
12 information that we have received of somebody telling us that  
13 he was at the jailhouse and he saw Ruby coming there to visit  
14 Trafficante. There is that difference.

15 Mr. Dodd. You received information that Ruby traveled  
16 to Cuba to visit Trafficante. You received a statement from  
17 a witness who claims that he was introduced to Oswald by Ruby.  
18 One is corroborated.

19 Mr. Sprague. I will say either is corroborated. I  
20 know that we have a witness who says the one thing. We have  
21 information about the other, but we have not really gone to  
22 those sources yet. We cannot state that, in fact, when we go  
23 to those sources they are going to be in a position of saying,  
24 yes, they saw it.

25 Mr. Dodd. I am just trying to protect against the

1 accusation later that we are blowing smoke. If you want to  
2 leave it like that, I have no complaint other than just  
3 protect ourselves, that is all.

4 Mr. Fithian. When you say "committee has received infor-  
5 mation, not yet corroborated," that leaves me a little uneasy,  
6 because it appears as though the counsel is anticipating  
7 corroboration.

8 I was under the impression that that was uncorroborated  
9 and likely to remain uncorroborated. The inference I draw  
10 from that is that it is not yet done, but we expect to get  
11 this done shortly.

12 Mr. Sprague. I do not want to give that implication.  
13 He was not yet corroborated. We don't have corroboration at  
14 this time.

15 Mr. Fithian. Could we get out of it by striking the  
16 words "not yet" and put in the word "uncorroborated"?

17 The Chairman. Before the word "information"?

18 Mr. Fithian. Yes. That is even better.

19 Mr. Sprague. That is fine.

20 Mr. Fithian. On page 13, second paragraph, "Recently an  
21 FBI informant stated he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey  
22 Oswald meeting." Who did the FBI informant state that to?  
23 The committee staff; another informant?

24 Mr. Tanenbaum. To Dan Rather.

25 Mr. Sprague. My problem there in stating that, I would

1 not like it to look like a House committee is relying at this  
2 point on a report carried by a newsman of what was said to  
3 him. It is the basis of the statement that we are making,  
4 but I don't like the idea of any notoriety.

5 Mr. Fithian. Say "reliable source."

6 Mr. Sprague. I don't want to say reliable source, either.

7 Mr. Devine. You can say publicly stated.

8 Mr. Dodd. It is a question I would ask if I were look-  
9 ing at the report. If I was reading this thing and wanted to  
10 poke holes in it, that is one of the questions I would ask.

11 Mr. Tanenbaum. We have spoken to the witness on the  
12 telephone. He is the witness who indicated previously he wants  
13 to take a lie detector test. He has indicated to us that what  
14 he said then is so. Before he speaks to us any further, he  
15 wants to take a lie detector so that we will understand he is  
16 telling the truth.

17 Mr. Sprague. I guess the answer to your question is  
18 that he has now said it to us. We can put in there "advised  
19 by the witness."

20 The Chairman. In talking with him, did you consider that  
21 an interview or just conversation?

22 Mr. Sprague. I would call it an interview.

23 The Chairman. If that is a fact, then you could say  
24 "The witness, interviewed by our staff" or "witness we have  
25 interviewed."

1 Mr. Sprague. My thought was to say "Recently, an FBI  
2 informant has advised the committee that."

3 The Chairman. It takes it out of the Dan Rather cate-  
4 gory, at least, and puts it here.

5 Mr. Dodd. Page 15, the third paragraph, "An FBI  
6 ballistics expert," the third paragraph down, beginning with  
7 the second sentence where you have the word "others by con-  
8 trast believe that the bullet possessed sufficient character-  
9 istics."

10 Mr. Lehner. We have one expert, Mr. MacDonald, who has  
11 stated that. We also have Mr. Haines who stated that, who  
12 was a former FBI agent. I don't think we would characterize  
13 him as an expert. That is why we left it with that vague  
14 "others."

15 Mr. Dodd. I think you ought to say "another expert."  
16 I think you ought to be clear.

17 Mr. Fauntroy. I think that would be helpful.

18 Mr. Lehner. We can put "an expert."

19 Mr. Fauntroy. "An expert" or "Another expert," but I  
20 would not leave it as "others."

21 Mr. Dodd. The last thing is on the last page of the  
22 report, page 23. This is merely a question. I don't know  
23 how it should be done. "Again, I would like to emphasize the  
24 committee, therefore, recommends," and going to the two  
25 points here.



1 I would like to emphasize again here that I think the  
2 language regarding legislative intent ought to be stated at  
3 the conclusion of this report as well. I will repeat it again.  
4 We ought to emphasize that, however possible, in this report.  
5 I don't know what language, but in addition, that the House  
6 reconstitute the select committee and that the House approve  
7 the budget.

8 The Chairman. Will the gentleman yield to me on that?

9 I am just thinking out loud with you on this. The first  
10 thing is that I am wondering whether we need to have this  
11 recommendation, and secondly, I am wondering -- we are not  
12 asking at this time for action on the approval of the budget.

13 I don't know that these two explanations need to be  
14 included. Just strike both of those recommendations.

15 Mr. Edgar. Under title of Section 5, it ought to say  
16 conclusions.

17 The Chairman. Strike both recommendations. Strike the  
18 language on page 22 saying "and recommendations."

19 Have you finished, Mr. Dodd?

20 Mr. Dodd. Two other points. One is the statement  
21 "Today we had a closed session with Mr. Sprague regarding  
22 allegations" and so forth. I would like to have that, if it  
23 is not already typed up; we are going to need that right  
24 away. It may be far too lengthy to incorporate in the  
25 Congressional Record. I think stapled together and collated,

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1 it could be available to members to go over.

2 I have had several requests for it. The members who are  
3 most concerned about this have expressed satisfaction that  
4 those of us on the committee are satisfied, but they still  
5 would like to be able to have access to it.

6 I think that should be done immediately.

7 The Chairman. Do we know when that will be ready?

8 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, it will be ready tomorrow.

9 We are making copies for every member of the committee so  
10 that you can have it for your own use if you want it. The  
11 17th, I guess, would be in the morning.

12 Mrs. Burke. I was going to suggest that if we feel it  
13 important enough to be in the record, we could sequentially  
14 each sign for an entry in the record for it to appear that  
15 way if it was not too long. I think we can get it in the  
16 record if we feel that it is justified.

17 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether it is  
18 the intent of the committee that it should go in the record.

19 The Chairman. I think there is a consensus generally  
20 that it ought not go in the record and be picked up by the  
21 press and let them make an issue of that at this point in  
22 time.

23 So now I think it ought to be kept within the members  
24 of the committee's jurisdiction, and they can share it with  
25 those members when they please.

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1 Mr. Dodd. I can remember one member in particular who  
2 is going to be asking for a copy.

3 The Chairman. It was in executive session, and I don't  
4 think he should have it.

5 Mr. Fithian. Congressman Wirth raised the question  
6 originally. Mr. Edgar and I have both talked to him at some  
7 length.

8 Our arrangement is simply this; that we, as a member of  
9 the committee, can get a copy of that proceeding in executive  
10 session. That if he and his staff person who has gotten  
11 involved in this and dug into it earlier and raised the  
12 question, want to come over to Mr. Edgar's office and sit  
13 down and read it, that is fine.

14 I wholeheartedly concur that to now make this thing  
15 public would make -- I think some reporters are looking for  
16 something to run one good solid story or two between now and  
17 our vote on the Floor. I think it could be handled that  
18 way, if they are that interested. If they are not that  
19 interested, they should not see it, anyway.

20 If they are interested, they can come over to our office  
21 and look at it.

22 The Chairman. I really want to caution you that that is  
23 all this committee needs.

24 Mr. Fithian. I have an altogether different point to  
25 raise here, Mr. Chairman.

PP, 49-59

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1 (No response.)  
2 The Clerk. Mr. Anderson.  
3 Mr. Devine. Aye, by proxy.  
4 The Clerk. Mr. Fauntroy.  
5 (No response.)  
6 The Clerk. Mr. McKinney.  
7 Mr. Devine. Aye, by proxy.  
8 The Clerk. Mrs. Burke.  
9 Mrs. Burke. Aye.  
10 The Clerk. Mr. Thone.  
11 (No response.)  
12 The Clerk. Mr. Dodd.  
13 Mr. Dodd. Aye.  
14 The Clerk. Mr. Ford.  
15 (No response.)  
16 The Clerk. Mr. Fithian.  
17 Mr. Fithian. Aye.  
18 The Clerk. Mr. Edgar.  
19 Mr. Edgar. Aye.  
20 The Chairman. We have to hold until the rest come.  
21 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Chairman, may we go off the record for a  
22 minute?  
23 The Chairman. Off the record.  
24 (Discussion off the record.)  
25 The Chairman. Back on the record.

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1 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I move a roll call on the  
2 report.

3 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll again of  
4 those members who did not answer to their names.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Preyer.

6 Mr. Preyer. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Fauntroy.

8 Mr. Fauntroy. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Thone.

10 (No response.)

11 The Clerk. Mr. Ford.

12 (No response.)

13 The Chairman. Would you announce the vote.

14 The Clerk. The vote is 10 aye, none nay, two by proxy.

15 The Chairman. Accordingly, the report is adopted, as  
16 amended.

17 Are you satisfied, Mrs. Burke?

18 Mrs. Burke. Is there going to be someone available --

19 The Chairman. Mr. Sprague.

20 Mr. Sprague. To respond to Mrs. Burke, the answer is  
21 absolutely yes. The two people who are available are Mr.  
22 Tanenbaum and Mr. Lehner for any briefing that any member of  
23 this committee wants, or member of Congress, at any time.

24 Mrs. Burke. I can give you the names of two people, if  
25 the appointments can be set up. One is Mr. Danielson. The

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1 other person is Mr. Krebs, Mr. Lloyd, and it could be done if  
2 someone could take over a memo to Martha Keys of Kansas. She  
3 voted against the first time. She might change her vote.

4 Mr. Sprague. The only question I have with regard to  
5 this is the staff is under instructions from me, and I am  
6 under my own instructions of what I think are the instructions  
7 of the committee that we do not make and have avoided making  
8 any contact on our own with any members of Congress other  
9 than the members of this committee and what this committee  
10 sets up for us with any members of Congress.

11 If you are saying to us for us to make this contact and  
12 set it up, we will do so. What I would frankly prefer is if  
13 a member of this committee who wants to do so would just set  
14 up the appointments, we will comply with them.

15 The Chairman. Mr. Fithian.

16 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, this brings me to the point  
17 I wanted to make before we break up.

18 Starting in about 30 or 45 minutes, I will be contacting  
19 each member to get from them some time, hopefully before 7:00  
20 this evening, in any case by noon tomorrow, a final tally of  
21 how we stand on our entire whip count.

22 Included in the tally I would hope would be the names  
23 of individual members whom we, as members of the committee,  
24 believe could or would want to be briefed. At that point  
25 then, to make more expeditious use of time, I would like to

1 arrange taking all the names from every member of the  
2 committee who needs briefing.

3 I would like to arrange then a series of maybe three,  
4 four, five times when we might get four or five of the members  
5 together so that one briefing would accomplish four or five  
6 members at a time until we exhaust the list of those who are  
7 persuadable but need some kind of briefing, and that is one  
8 of the purposes of this whip count.

9 The second purpose is to go back to all members that  
10 any individual member here wants to go to with a computerized  
11 letter; included in the letter a paragraph or paragraphs that  
12 we are devising now and which I would like to have some review  
13 by the staff so that we can go back to the individual members  
14 of any member of Congress that any member of this committee  
15 wants us to follow up on.

16 We have the capacity to do that with a computerized  
17 letter. All it will take is some individual letterhead from  
18 your office and the individuals you want us to send the letters  
19 to. We will process them and have these ready for signatures  
20 of the members of this committee prior to any vote.

21 We will also report to you, Mr. Chairman, as to where  
22 we stand on this thing, specifically in terms of count.

23 I just spoke to Mr. Devine. His man has been sick, but  
24 he is hoping to have a Republican count sometime tomorrow.

25 I will get with you no later than tomorrow afternoon. I would



1 hope all the members of the committee here would make every  
2 effort to contact people on their list, because we have to  
3 have a hard count by tomorrow at 2:00 in order to put the  
4 rest of the mechanism in motion that we have.

5 Mr. Dodd. If the gentleman would yield, it has got to  
6 be before that. We have a whip meeting tomorrow morning at  
7 9:15 in the morning. I would like at that meeting to be able  
8 to take our accumulated count, even if we do not have the  
9 sponsors, and turn a good portion of that responsibility over  
10 to the normal whip operations. That, I think, would increase  
11 our possibility of success.

12 If the leadership of the Congress is pushing this as a  
13 whip item, it can be counted in the remaining three or four  
14 days. If you can give me that information before 9:15  
15 tomorrow, at least what you have --

16 Mr. Fithian. I will give you what I have up to that  
17 point. I would raise no objection to the regular whip  
18 system handling this. I think it is crucial, from my exper-  
19 ience today, those of us who are members of the committee, to  
20 talk personally to some of these people.

21 There were two members today that I talked with, and all  
22 we really needed was about five or six minutes of discussion  
23 in which I could simply tell them, nothing that is really  
24 classified, but just tell them it was my judgment, based on  
25 these things, that this thing ought to go forward, and both

1 of them made a commitment today to vote for it.

2 We have a very long way to go on this matter.

3 The Chairman. Let me ask for a point of clarification,  
4 Mrs. Burke. The briefing that you want is not the executive  
5 briefing?

6 Mrs. Burke. It is going to take almost that with some  
7 of them.

8 But let me turn the list of those over to Floyd of those  
9 who need briefings.

10 The Chairman. It needs to go all the way.

11 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, we have not the slightest  
12 objection, as long as it is set up with members of the  
13 Congress by members of the committee for an executive brief-  
14 ing.

15 The Chairman. But I agree with the procedure of the  
16 staff not contacting any member unless so directed. I talked  
17 to Al yesterday and instructed him to call a couple members.  
18 I assume that was done. I know it was done, in one case.

19 Mrs. Burke. These are people who asked for briefings.  
20 But it could be done by this method. We will try this first.

21 Mr. Sprague. We would be happy to have the executive  
22 type, full, complete, and let them know what it is.

23 Mrs. Burke. In the case of one, he is a whip, and it  
24 might not hurt --

25 The Chairman. You ought to get to him tonight. The whip

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1 is leaving us tomorrow.

2 A couple matters. With the committee having voted out  
3 this report as amended, when can we anticipate that this  
4 report will be ready to file with the House?

5 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, we should have the type-  
6 written draft of this with the amendments suggested here to you  
7 tomorrow by noontime, so that we can get it over to the  
8 printer tomorrow. They told us the printed copies of that  
9 would be ready Monday morning.

10 The Chairman. Mr. Preyer.

11 Mr. Preyer. Does that have to be ready by noon? I  
12 know Mr. Anderson made some comments to Mr. Fithian about the  
13 budget provision. I was not sure whether tomorrow is clear  
14 or what those changes are going to be or whether it is going  
15 to involve -- that will take some writing and refiguring of  
16 that.

17 I am wondering if we can get that done by noon tomorrow.

18 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Preyer, as long as we can have the  
19 typewritten copy of the report to the printing office by  
20 6:00 p.m. tomorrow, we can meet that printing deadline of  
21 Monday morning. I was just allowing a little time tomorrow  
22 in case after it is examined by the Chairman, there is a  
23 desire to have some more changes. We do have until 6:00 p.m.  
24 tomorrow.

25 The Chairman. With that, you also have a matter of the

1 members correcting the transcripts and ordering them to be  
2 printed. Have you had someone following through with that?

3 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, if the members have no  
4 amendments or changes to make, we can get them there by 6:00  
5 p.m. today. They can be printed by Friday morning.

6 In the event the members are not in a position to say  
7 that yet, as long as we know by 6:00 p.m. tomorrow, that can  
8 be completed by Monday morning as well.

9 The Chairman. I would suggest you have someone follow  
10 through with each member to be sure that is compiled right.

11 There were a couple of other matters that I wanted to  
12 get into tonight. Don Edwards' letter; did we have the staff  
13 prepare a response to that?

14 Mr. Wolf. Yes, we have, Mr. Chairman. His letter just  
15 wants to make it clear that those rules that apply to the  
16 committee staff will also apply to the individual staff person  
17 on our staff, designated to be liaison.

18 For example, restrictions on revealing the names of  
19 subpoenaed people, et cetera. I think just to make that  
20 clear, it would require an amendment to our rules as to what  
21 we are constituting.

22 The Chairman. Would you prepare a letter to him in which  
23 you advise him that we appreciate that suggestion and that  
24 the matter will be corrected by way of amendment after we are  
25 reconstituted.

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1 Mr. Wolf. One point on the report to be filed. On  
2 my meeting with Mr. Collins, he requested that the Rules  
3 Committee be given, even if it is only a typed version, of  
4 the report Friday morning.

5 If the Chair would like me to provide a typed xerox  
6 version which will be done by that time. The printed copies  
7 will not be back until Monday morning.

8 The Chairman. What do you need from us?

9 Mr. Wolf. Just your authorization to provide him the  
10 xeroxes of the typed copy.

11 The Chairman. That is on the budget?

12 Mr. Wolf. No, of the report.

13 The Chairman. Of the report?

14 Mr. Wolf. Yes.

15 The Chairman. I see.

16 All right, you have that.

17 One other thing. On Bruton and Baish, when we last met,  
18 you were to check out the usual ramifications of our accept-  
19 ing the resignation of Mr. Bruton as opposed to our firing  
20 him.

21 Mr. Wolf. That is correct.

22 The Chairman. And how it would affect the payroll status.  
23 Can you give us a report on that?

24 Mr. Wolf. Surely. It is my recommendation that his  
25 resignation as opposed to firing, the committee take the

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1 latter action. It is very questionable whether or not he was  
2 fired at that committee meeting held in your office, I  
3 believe, since the procedures of the committee itself were not  
4 followed at that time.

5 There appears to be no difference. We have checked with  
6 House Administration, for their purposes, for his back pay  
7 claims for any other legal significance to accepting a resig-  
8 nation as opposed to firing.

9 The only possible distinction might be for an unemploy-  
10 ment claim that he would file with the District of Columbia.  
11 If his resignation were for just cause, he would still be  
12 eligible for unemployment.

13 The Chairman. Can we have then --

14 Mr. Wolf. Because of Mr. Fithian's amendment requiring  
15 majority of the committee to be present to terminate staff  
16 member, I do not believe a majority is present, so I do not  
17 think action can be taken at the current time either on Mr.  
18 Bruton or Mrs. Baish, who also should be re-fired, if you  
19 will.

20 The Chairman. The only thing is, I think you should be  
21 in communication with him so he does not feel we are ignoring  
22 his correspondence and advise him that the committee has the  
23 matter under consideration and that he should be getting a  
24 reply in just a few days. Explain it to him.

25 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I do not agree with Mr. Wolf

1 with regard to Mr. Bruton's situation.

2 As I understood it and from previous meetings, this  
3 committee has already decided to accept the resignation of  
4 Mr. Bruton as of the same day that that firing occurred,  
5 provided there was no legal difficulty which would occur, and  
6 we were to check that through.

7 That has been checked --

8 The Chairman. I do not think they actually took the  
9 action. I think it was left open for him to check it out and  
10 return with a report back to us.

11 Mr. Wolf. That is my understanding.

12 The Chairman. And if it was possible to go ahead and  
13 accept his resignation, the committee ought to do that. That  
14 appeared to be the consensus of the committee at that time.  
15 I do not think on the record they formally did.

16 Mr. Wolf. That is my understanding, Mr. Chairman.

17 Mr. Sprague. I do not think, for a person to resign,  
18 involves the hiring and the terminating. We are talking  
19 about a different situation.

20 The Chairman. He posed the question in a letter to us  
21 whether we had been fired, and if so, was it done in a duly  
22 constituted meeting of the committee, and so forth.

23 In checking it out, also we ascertained that was really  
24 an informal meeting that was called. It was not an official  
25 meeting of the committee. That action had been brought to our

1 attention at that informal meeting. We would not be able to  
2 say to him that it was done in a duly and legally consti-  
3 tuted meeting of this committee.

4 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, since it was my amendment  
5 that put the committee in this position, I would like to state  
6 for the record that there was never any intention in that  
7 amendment which would preclude anyone from resigning from the  
8 staff.

9 I was talking about forceable separation from the staff,  
10 and that is what the amendment directs itself to. Therefore,  
11 there is no problem with the committee, as far as I can see; no  
12 violation of our rules in any way to accept his resignation.  
13 If it is a forced termination, then it would be another  
14 matter.

15 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I quite agree with Mr.  
16 Fithian. The only issue is, can the committee accept his  
17 resignation as of that same day? The answer is yes. I do  
18 not think we ought to respond to his letter with any opinion  
19 concerning the firing. He has requested we accept his  
20 resignation. I think we merely ought to respond and say we  
21 have decided to do so and that our record will reflect that.

22 The Chairman. There was another item, as I recall, to  
23 the \$40 office telephone bill which I had the impression, in  
24 all probability, they were legitimate calls. But he was asked  
25 to do something by way of substantiating, or something of this



1 sort.

2 I am just wondering if that is something we do not need  
3 to necessarily get involved in since we are talking about \$40  
4 and we are denying the claim of something in the neighborhood  
5 of \$2500. Maybe we ought to respond in that way, and we will  
6 pay his \$40 upon signing the proper vouchers, and so forth,  
7 and then the other members and I will officially have the  
8 committee do that.

9 Meanwhile, Jim Wolf, you call him and advise him of the  
10 status of this matter so we do not encounter a lawsuit on  
11 this point.

12 Mr. Sprague. I do not think there is any official  
13 action required by the committee under the rules with regard  
14 to a staff member resigning.

15 The Chairman. Probably not. We can check that. If  
16 there is not, we can go ahead and reject that.

17 We will recess, subject to call of the chair.

18 (Whereupon, at 4:45 p.m., the committee adjourned,  
19 subject to call of the Chair.)

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