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HEARINGS

Before The

ORIGINAL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Washington, D.C.

April 13, 1978

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc.

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554-2345

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 5 -

12:12
12:41
Thursday, April 13, 1978

U.S. House of Representatives,

Select Committee on Assassinations,

Washington, D. C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 5:10 p.m., in room 1310, Longworth Building, the Hon. Louis Stokes (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stokes, Preyer, Dodd, Ford, Edgar, Devine and McKinney.

Staff Members Present: G. Robert Blakey, G. Johnson, M. Eberhardt, J. Wolf, A. Hausman, E. Berning, W. Cross and I. C. Matthews.

Chairman Stokes. A quorum being present at this time, the full committee will come to order.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Blakey.

Mr. Blakey. Mr. Chairman, all of the issues that would be discussed at the meeting today deal with the nature of the investigation and its progress and it would be appropriate therefore that the meeting be in closed session.

Chairman Stokes. The Chair will entertain a motion.

Mr. McKinney. I so move.

SHORT

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1 // Chairman Stokes. It has been properly moved that the
2 session be closed.

3 The clerk will call the roll.

4 Miss Berning. Mr. Stokes.

5 Chairman Stokes. Aye.

6 Miss Berning. Mr. Devine.

7 Mr. Devine. Aye.

8 Miss Berning. Mr. Preyer.

9 Mr. Preyer. Aye.

10 Miss Berning. Mr. McKinney.

11 Mr. McKinney. Aye.

12 Miss Berning. Mr. Fauntroy.

13 [No response]

14 Miss Berning. Mr. Thone.

15 [No response]

16 Miss Berning. Mrs. Burke.

17 [No response]

18 Miss Berning. Mr. Sawyer.

19 [No response]

20 Miss Berning. Mr. Dodd.

21 Mr. Dodd. Aye.

22 Miss Berning. Mr. Ford.

23 Mr. Ford. Aye.

24 Miss Berning. Mr. Fithian.

25 [No response]



11 Miss Berning. Mr. Edgar.

1 Mr. Edgar. Aye.

2 Miss Berning. Seven Ayes, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman Stokes. Seven members having voted in the
4 affirmative, ~~this session~~ ^{The new Hec} is now in executive session and
5 all members of the public are asked to be excused from the
6 room.
7

8 Mr. Blakey.

9 Mr. Blakey. Mr. Chairman, you have before you a resolu-
10 tion for immunity¹ which would authorize counsel on behalf of
11 the committee to appear before the court and secure immunity
12 orders for those people whose names are designated on the
13 list. These immunity orders are like those similarly secured
14 in the past. They are contingency orders; they would of
15 course not become effective unless communicated to a witness
16 during the course of the proceeding.

17 The justifications for the immunity orders appear on
18 attachments. In essence they are either those people involved
19 in the anti-Castro Cuban community or in some way connected
20 to organized crime. That is the general description of them.
21 We have some reason to suspect that many, if not all, of them
22 would have good reason to claim for the self-incrimination. I
23 would be glad to answer any questions about them individually.

24 Mr. Preyer (presiding). Are there any questions concern-
25 ing any of these?

26 If Entered as follows: the exhibit No. 17, see App. 1/21 p. 1/21.

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7 Have we been able to locate all these people?

Mr. Blakey. Yes.

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Wolf reminds me that one or two are not yet located.

Mr. Preyer. If there are no questions, is there a motion adopting this resolution?

~~Mr. [redacted]~~ I so move.

Mr. Dodd. Second.

Mr. Preyer. Moved and seconded.

Miss Berning will call the roll.

Mr. McKinney. The Chairman is outside going over a letter.

Mr. Blakey. The proxies are made out to the Chairman.

Mr. Preyer. There are familiar names in here. You might advise me of the nature of these people.

Mr. Blakey. The nature of the fact is that we are beginning to move into the interrogation of those people who have been the subject of previous testimony.

Miss Berning. Mr. Stokes.

Chairman Stokes. Aye.

Miss Berning. Mr. Devine.

Mr. Devine. Aye.

Miss Berning. Mr. Preyer.

Mr. Preyer. Aye.

Miss Berning. Mr. McKinney.

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// Mr. Blakey. Mr. Chairman, there are no further matters that would require a vote by the committee. There are several matters of information that might be appropriate to draw to the committee's attention. The first is an informational matter.

Mr. Ortez appeared before the Kennedy Subcommittee this week and he is now being held by the ~~United States~~ Marshals. Mr. Fithian expressed some interest in perhaps pursuing further investigation with him. If we were to do that, we would have to keep him here for a while. Our own recommendation is that we not pursue Mr. Ortez at least at this time until we have gotten further information back from the Cuban government.

I didn't want to say anything to the Marshals about taking him back or not taking him back until I brought it up to the committee's attention, and really unless I hear an expression from the committee now as a whole that they would want to take some action with him now as opposed to later, I think it would be appropriate for us to release him. I would say that euphemistically since he is serving a 20-year term for airplane hijacking and it is doubtful that he is going to go anywhere, but nonetheless he will be available to the committee really on command from here on out.

Chairman Stokes. I would think that that explanation ought to suffice, and as long as he is available to the



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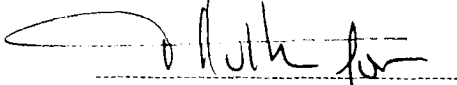
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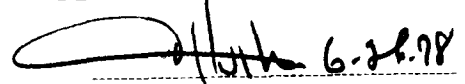
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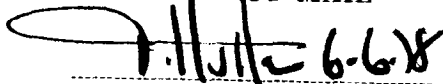
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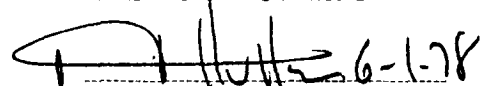
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May 31, 1978
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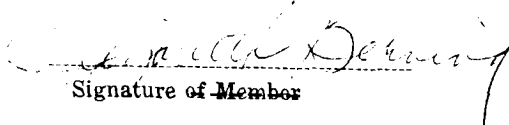
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May 17, 1978
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