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Subject: An Issue to Examine

Mr. Samoluk, I would like to suggest that the board interview former Dallas police lieutenant C. Day, the man who claimed he discovered and lifted Oswald's palm print off the barrel of the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle that was found on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository Building. The palm print lift is of course an assassination record, and there are many unanswered questions about Day's story concerning his alleged processing of the print. As of three years ago, Day was alive and well, and, I believe, living in the Dallas area. Years after the Warren Commission disbanded, it came to light through an internal WC memo that the Commission was suspicious of the manner in which the palm print was obtained. When Day appeared before the Commission, the questioning to which he was subjected can politely be called unproductive and overly friendly. Later on in the investigation, when the Commission's doubts about the palm print began to come to a head, chief counsel J. Lee Rankin asked the FBI to secure more information from Day about the palm print. Day refused to make a sworn statement regarding his handling of the print, and there the matter has rested ever since. Basically, here are some of the questions that the Commission failed to ask, much less resolve:

1. Day said he could still see the print on the barrel AFTER he lifted it. In fact, he said it was so visible that he thought it was the FBI's "best bet" in terms of fingerprint evidence on the rifle. Yet, when the rifle was examined just hours later by the FBI's Sebastian Latona, not only did Latona find no prints on the barrel, partial or otherwise, but he found no evidence that the barrel had even been PROCESSED for prints. So, what happened to the print that Day said remained visible on the rifle after lifting? And why did Latona find no evidence that the barrel had even been processed for prints?
2. Day had the rifle from 1:25 till 11:45 P.M. on November 22 and took photos of the partial prints on the trigger guard. Why, then, did he not take a single photograph of the palm print before or after he supposedly lifted it? It was, as Day admitted, standard procedure to photograph a print before lifting it. At the very least, Day could have photographed the print after he lifted it, since he said it was still visible. Why didn't he take a single picture of the palm print on the barrel?
3. Day said he didn't take any photographs of the print because just as he was about to do so he received a call from Chief Curry's office telling him to stop all work on the rifle so that FBI could finish what he had started. In his WC testimony, Day said this call came at around 8:00 or 8:30 P.M. However, Day, by his own admission, took another photograph of the rifle half an hour to an hour LATER, at 9:00 or 9:30. Why, then, didn't he take a picture of the print on the barrel? Moreover, in an earlier statement, made to the FBI, Day said the call from the chief's office came just before midnight. If so, why didn't he photograph the palm print on the barrel? Why the marked conflict concerning when he received the call from Curry's office?
4. Why did Day depart from routine procedure by not

Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: