

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 1996

To: Phil Golrick
cc- Jeremy Gunn (w/out attachments)

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: Frank Ellsworth and the HSCA

This is a quick and dirty reply to your inquiry about Frank Ellsworth. Ellsworth, as you know, comes into the assassination story from three directions: 1) as someone who helped DPD search the TSBD; 2) as the alleged "Secret Service agent" who flashed his credentials to a DPD officer on the grassy knoll, and 3) as the ATF agent involved with John Thomas Masen, a right-wing Oswald look-alike with ties to various right-wing groups. The HSCA covered each of these three issues with Ellsworth at one point or another.

The HSCA interviewed Ellsworth in October of 1977 in Dallas; this interview was followed up with a phone interview on 11/1/77. HSCA staff interviewed Ellsworth again by phone in March of 1978 and then deposed him in July of 1978, again in Dallas. Ellsworth was still with the ATF at this point (out of ATF's office in Tyler, TX); in fact, his ATF superior and an ATF Counsel were with him at the July '78 deposition. The HSCA also deposed John Thomas Masen in Dallas -- the day after they deposed Ellsworth. The HSCA Report mentions Ellsworth only in the context of whether or not he was on the grassy knoll (as the man who identified himself to a DPD officer as a Secret Service agent) immediately after the assassination. The report does not reference his tracking of anti-Castro Cuban/gunrunning activities, although HSCA files go into this issue at some length. Attached are the following documents or RIFs (I didn't copy the Ellsworth and Masen depositions for you, since they are lengthy -- but the RIFs are attached to guide you to them in our SCIF):

HSCA File Number	Date	Description
005735	3/17/77	Memo from George Evica to HSCA, re: Masen as Oswald look-alike. References Ellsworth.
003128	10/20/77	OCR of phone interview w/Ellsworth
006291	11/08/77	OCR of interview with Hosty in which Hosty claims Ellsworth

told him that he (Ellsworth) was
on grassy knoll.

006292	3/13/78	OCR of telephone interview w/Ellsworth, re: denial of Hosty's allegation.
010118	7/21/78	Letter from HSCA to ATF Director Krogman, re: deposing Ellsworth.
010903 (RIF only attached)	7/25/78	Ninety-five page deposition of Ellsworth, pp. 39-44, 555-60 cover Masen/anti-Castro Cuban issues.
010903	7/25/78	Summary memo, re: Ellsworth deposition.
010904 (RIF only attached)	7/26/78	Twenty-eight page deposition of John Thomas Masen.
010904	7/26/78	Summary memo, re: Masen deposition.

Non-HSCA Sources on Ellsworth

Though Ellsworth did not testify or provide an affidavit for the Warren Commission, he was interviewed by Commission attorney Burt Griffin on 4/16/64 in Dallas. USSS Agent William Patterson was also present at the interview. This interview apparently generated a memo which, from the attached RIFs, appears to be located in three different parts of the NARA-WC collection. These could be reviewed out at College Park. In the HSCA FBI Case Files there is a 4/17/64 memo from the SAC, Dallas to the Director which references Ellsworth (RIF attached). This, too, could be viewed at College Park.

According to Mary Ferrell, Ellsworth was alive and living in Tyler, TX as recently as 1993. Dick

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Russell interviewed Ellsworth in early 1976 and wrote a story for the *Village Voice* on him in April of that year. In *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, Russell returns to the subject of Ellsworth (most significantly on pages 541-544, attached). Russell has spoken to Ellsworth as recently as 1992. Russell also tracked down and spoke to Masen. George Evica deals with Ellsworth in *We Are All Mortal*, though I don't know whether or not he mentions anything beyond the substance of his attached 1977 memo to the HSCA. Doug has a copy of Evica's book at home and will bring it in upon request.

Freeman e:\wp-docs\022396
File 4.0.2 Ellsworth, Frank