

REV. 4-15-64

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 105-82555

FIELD OFFICE FILE

ED

DO NOT FILE IN FBI HEADQUARTERS FILES

RETURN TO FOIPA
ROOM 6296

FBI/DOJ

105-82555-576-582
Volume Number
576-582
570

File No: 100-10461

Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Date: 6-78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5761	4-28-64	AIRTEL, NO TO BUREAU	2	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5762	4-28-64	MEMO, KUYKENDALL TO SAC, DL	2	2	b7D
5763	4-28-64	NK REPORT BY MURPHY TELETYPE, BUREAU TO MO	3	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5764	4-29-64	AIRTEL, LA TO BUREAU	1	0	" "
5765	4-29-64	AIRTEL, DL TO BUREAU	1	0	" "
5766	4-30-64	AIRTEL, DL TO MM	1	1	NONE
5767	4-30-64	AIRTEL, DL TO BUREAU	1	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5768	4-30-64	AIRTEL, DL TO BUREAU	3	0	" "
5769	4-30-64	AIRTEL, HC TO BUREAU	2	0	" "
5770	4-7-64	MEMO, HORTON TO SAC, DL	1	1	b7c
5771	4-23-64	LHM	24	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5772			42	4	

File No: **100-10461**

Re: **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**

Date: **6-78**
 (month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5773	4-23-64	MEMO, MEXICO CITY TO BUREAU	4	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5773A	4-29-64	BUREAU R/S TO DL	1	1	NONE
<input checked="" type="radio"/> UNRECORDED SERIAL AFTER 5773A	4- - 64	MEXICO CITY R/S TO BUREAU	2	2	"
5773 B	5-1-64	BUREAU R/S TO DL	1	1	"
5774	4-27-64	AIRTEL, MM TO BUREAU	1	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5775	4-27-64	AIRTEL, NY TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5776	3-30-64	ARTICLE, UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATOR	6	0	"
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 5777	4-28-64	MEMO, LA TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5778	4-28-64	MEMO, BUREAU TO DL	1	0	"
5779	4-29-64	LETTER, ACQUER TO RANKIN	2	0	"
5780	4-29-64	AIRTEL, BUREAU TO NY, SL	1	0	"
5781	4-30-64	TELETYPE, BUREAU TO NO	1	0	"
			22	4	

File No: 100-10461 Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD Date: 6-78
 (month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5782	4-30-64	CABLEGRAM, BUREAU TO MEXICO CITY	3	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5783	4-30-64	TELETYPE, BUREAU TO NO	1	0	" "
5784	3-25-64	TESTIMONY OF DIAL DOWAYNE RYDER BEFORE WORKING COMMISSION	41	—	REFERRAL: NATIONAL ARCHIVES
5784a	NO DATE	REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO THE PRESIDENT'S MURDER LETTER, RANKIN TO HOOVER	1	—	REFERRAL: NATIONAL ARCHIVES
5785	4-28-64	RANKIN TO HOOVER	4	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5786	4-29-64	AIRTEL, BUREAU TO DL	1	0	" "
5787	4-28-64	MEMO, SHANKLIN TO FILE	1	1	NONE
5788	4-28-64	TELETYPE, BUREAU TO DL, HO, NO	2	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5789	4-29-64	TELETYPE, HO TO BUREAU	2	0	" "
5790	NO DATE	TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH	11	11	NONE
5791	4-29-64	BUREAU R/S TO DL	1	1	" "
5792	4-30-64	MEMO, SHANKLIN TO FILE	1	1	" "

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File No: 100-10461

Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Date: 6-78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5793	3-19-64	MEMO, BRANNIGAN TO SAC, SHAWKIN	1	1	NONE
5794	3-30-64	MEMO, GEMERLING TO SAC, DL	1	1	"
5795	4-30-64	LETTER, HOOVER TO RAMMERS	2	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5796	4-30-64	TELETYPE, NO TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5797	4-30-64	TELETYPE, NO TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5798	5-1-64	MEMO, STANLEY TO SAC, DL	1	1	NONE
5799	NO DATE	HEADLINE TYPE MESSAGE	1	1	"
5800	NO DATE	LETTER, BUREAU TO SAC, DL TO FBI, DL	2	2	W/D
5801	4-30-64	LETTER, RAMKIN TO HOOVER	3	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5802	5-1-64	AIRTEL, BUREAU TO DL	1	0	"
5803	4-28-64	AIRTEL, MEXICO CITY TO BUREAU	3	0	"
5804	4-29-64	SA LHM	4	0	"

21 6

File No: 100-10461 Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5805	4-29-64	AIRTEL, SA TO BUREAU	2	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5806	4-29-64	AIRTEL, NO TO BUREAU	4	0	"
5807	4-30-64	AIRTEL, NY TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5808	4-30-64	NY LHM	3	0	"
5809	4-30-64	AIRTEL, NY TO BUREAU	2	0	"
5810	4-30-64	AIRTEL, EP TO BUREAU	2	0	"
5811	NO DATE	A COMMENTARY REPORT THE OSWALD AFFAIR	11	11	NONE
5811A	4-30-64	BUREAU R/S TO DL ENCLOSED SERIAL 5811	1	1	"
5812	4-30-64	SA REPORT BY KENNEDY	94	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5812A	5-6-64	OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF ERROR BUREAU TO SA	1	0	"
5813	5-1-64	AIRTEL, DL TO BUREAU	1	0	"
5814	5-1-64	AIRTEL, WFO TO BUREAU	1	0	"

123 12

Inventory Worksheet **VOLUME # 50**
 FD-503 (2-18-77)

File No: 100-10461 Re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD Date: 6-78
 (month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
5815	5-1-64	AIRTEL, WFO TO BUREAU	2	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5816	5-1-64	AIRTEL, MP TO LA	3	2	b7c
5817	5-1-64	AIRTEL, WFO TO BUREAU	1	0	PREVIOUSLY PROCESSED
5818	4-29-64	TELETYPE, BUREAU TO DL	1	0	" "
5819	4-29-64	WFO REPORT BY MORRISSEY	43	0	" "
5820	4-30-64	TELETYPE, DL TO BUREAU	1	0	" "
TOTAL			334	42	

SAC, DALLAS (100-10402)

4/28/64

SA EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
RM

b7d
[REDACTED] Dallas, Texas (protect identity, request), on 3/26/64, telephonically contacted this office and reported to SA KUYKENDALL information as follows:

b7d
[REDACTED] Dallas, a few days previously engaged in a discussion with Dr. ELIZABETH LIVERMAN, also known as Dr. ELIZABETH L. RHODIFER, 1220 Brook Valley Lane, Dallas, while [REDACTED] was on a business call to that address. LIVERMAN had in her possession at her residence a book entitled "Assassination of President Kennedy", and after he noticed same, several comments were made. The book was published by American Eagle Publishing Company, the president of which company was said by her to be H. A. SURRY. She commented that DEAN RUSK, U. S. Secretary of State, is "one of the top Communists in the country". She claimed she learned about that from reading that book. She also said the common people do not know much about how the Communists are taking over the government. She said a Secret Service man was shot in the Texas Book Depository Building on the day of the assassination but that "this was hushed up". She said President KENNEDY had a lot of information he was going to tell about top Communists in government but that a conspiracy existed and the conspirators decided to "bump off KENNEDY" and after that OSWALD was "bumped off" to "shut him up". In the book appeared a photostatic copy of the diary in which OSWALD said he had shot at General WALKER.

LIVERMAN claimed she had on a previous occasion made a record of ADLAI STEVENSON's speech in Dallas. She showed SCHUTTE a part of a "Daily Worker", Communist newspaper, which

- 1 - DL 100-10402
- 1 - DL 157-218 (EDWIN WALKER)
- 1 - DL 100-1264 (National Indignation Convention)
- 1 - DL 100-10461 (OSWALD)

EDK:rmb

(4)

100-10461-576

hmk hmk

PPS

DL 100-10402

she said she obtained just to read up on how Communists operated.

Complainant could not furnish LIVERMAN's physical description and does not know if she is affiliated with any particular organization.

The above data is channelized to various files to which it could possibly relate.

No action is considered necessary.

ACTION

None.

4/30/64

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MIAMI

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (100-10461) (P)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD aka
IS-R-CUBA
OO: DL
BUFILE: 105-82555

Re: PAUL BETHEL

Reurairtel to Director, 4/10/64, captioned, "ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS, MISCELLANEOUS INFO CONCERNING," with forty separate enclosures of FD-302's and/or inserts.

All but one copy of enclosure #4 are being destroyed by Dallas as the matter therein pertaining to JOE LANUSA has been associated with PAUL BETHEL and heretofore reported under the LEE HARVEY OSWALD caption. Dallas is not including inserts from other offices in the OSWALD case, but each office is submitting their own reports.

The information contained in the above-mentioned enclosure was included in Dallas report dated 12/8/63, except for the last two paragraphs of page 2 and all of page 3.

Each office receiving copies of this airtel should include results of its investigation on this phase in their own report under the OSWALD caption.

- 2 - MIAMI
- 1 - NEWYORK (INFO)
- 1 - WFO (INFO)
- 2 - DALLAS

RJD:eah
(6)

Serialize Amk
Index Amk
File Amk
Search _____

100-10461-5767

SAC, DALLAS (105-1716)

4/7/64

SA EMORY E. HORTON

RUTH HYDE PAINE
IS - R

(OO: DALLAS)

MARINA NIKOLAEVNA OSWALD
IS - R

(OO: DALLAS)

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

ACTION:

File for information.

2-Dallas (105-1716)
2-Dallas (105-1435)
1-Dallas (105-1717)
1-Dallas (100-10461)
EEH:sah
(6)

100-10461-5771

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
APR 7 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

[Signature]

TO: SAC,

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu

- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City

- Norfolk
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield
- Tampa

- Washington Field
- Quantico

TO LEGAT:

- Bern
- Bonn
- London
- Manila
- Mexico, D. F.
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Rio de Janeiro
- Tokyo

Date April 29, 1964

RE: **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**
IS - R * CUBA

- For information For appropriate action Surep. by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks: *cc LHM as amended per pencil notations sent to Commission. Copy to San Antonio for info. Leads sent to El Paso.*

100-10461-5773A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DALLAS	

Enc. *2*
Bufile **105-82555**
Urfile **100-10461**

To

Director

BU FILE # 105-82555
MC FILE # 103-3702

Att.

SAC

Title

ASAC

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA
IS - R - CUBA

Supv.

Agent

SE

CC

Steno

Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

Acknowledge

Open Case

Assign.....Reassign.....

Prepare lead cards

Bring file

Prepare tickler

Call me

Recharge serials

Correct

Return assignment card

Deadline.....

Return file

Deadline passed

Return serials

Delinquent

Search and return

Discontinue

See me

Expedite

Send Serials.....

File

to

For information

Submit new charge-out

Initial & return

Submit report by

Leads need attention

Type

Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

Re Mexico City letter and LHM dated 4/23/64.

Attached hereto are 16 copies of amended pages 8,

- 5 - Bureau (Encs. 58)**
- (1 - Liaison Section)**
- (1 - Dallas, 100-10481)**
- (1 - El Paso)**
- (1 - San Antonio, 105-2809)**
- 1 - Mexico City**

[Signature]
Legat CLARK D. ANDERSON
Office.....**Mexico City**.....

MLL:plb (6)

(OVER)

19, and 20 of LHM of reference and 10 copies of accompanying cover letter page 1. Amended pages are being submitted to make corrections and rectify an inadvertent omission with respect to the sources utilized.

Bureau is requested to insert the amended pages and/or forward copies thereof to offices for which copies of reference communications were designated.

TO: SAC,

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu

- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City

- Norfolk
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield
- Tampa

- Washington Field
- Quantico

TO LEGAT:

- Bern
- Bonn
- London
- Manila
- Mexico, D. F.
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Rio de Janeiro
- Tokyo

Date May 1, 1964

RE: **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**
IS - R - CUBA

- For information
- For appropriate action
- Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Insert enclosures in Legat Mexico City 4/23/64 letter and LHM. Also change the following: word "collection" pg. 17, par. 3, line 2 of LHM to "recollection". word "American" pg. 17, par. 3, line 3, "American's".

Edna
W. S. ...

100-10461-5773B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>hmt</i>	FILED <i>hmt</i>
MAY 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

Enc.

Bufile 105-82555

Urfile 100-10461

lcc-El Paso, San Antonio 5/1/64

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 4/28/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Section Chief W. A. BRANIGAN telephonically advised at 4:00 PM today that the Bureau is sending a teletype down which will contain in effect the following information:

The Commission has asked for the appearance of SA HOSTY and retired Agent JOHN W. FAIN to appear before the Commission on Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5 next. They desire to take testimony of a representative group who interviewed OSWALD, MARINA and Mrs. PAINE. The Commission indicated that they want a preliminary interview on Monday and the testimony to be given on the following day. Dallas is instructed to make arrangements to have HOSTY there by 8:00 AM on May 4th.

This message is going to Houston to make arrangements for the appearance of SA FAIN and to New Orleans for the appearance of SA QUIGLEY.

(2) - Dallas

JGS:mfr

(2)

100-10461-5787

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>hmk</i>	FILED <i>hmk</i>
APR 28 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

Harvey

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

"MY SON DID NOT ASSASSINATE KENNEDY"

Exclusive Story by the Mother of Oswald.

(From "Le Nouveau Candide" No. 153, week of April 2 to April 9, 1964.)

This woman bears an accursed name. To the whole world her son is the presumed assassin of President Kennedy. But Marguerite Oswald refuses to believe what the world says.

In her eyes, a mischievous youngster who played hooky in order to go to look at animals at the zoo, a good young man who sent small gifts to her, could not have committed this frightful crime. The Dallas tragedy uprooted Marguerite Oswald. At 55 years of age, this old nurse without resources, this simple woman who has neither experience nor connections, threw herself into an unbelievable enterprise: she wants to proclaim her son's innocence.

To tear down the structure of presumptions raised against Lee Harvey Oswald, she probed her memory, sifted police reports and conceived a strange theory: her son appears to have been an agent of the American Intelligence Service.

We present, without pronouncing any judgment, her arguments, which express perhaps more maternal love than shrewdness.

Even if this was only a desperate appeal of a mother refusing to believe that she gave birth to a monster, this document would deserve to be included in the record. But it contains likewise some disturbing revelations.

Handwritten notes:
Y...
...
...

Handwritten notes:
P. 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11

100-10461-5770

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

Handwritten signature: [Signature]

The Warren Commission - charged with the investigation of the assassination of Kennedy - has apparently already decided on a verdict of guilty for Oswald. The argument of the mother of Lee Harvey raises questions to which the report of this Commission should give answers, if it is to dissipate once and for all the doubts which still hang heavy over the Dallas affair.

* * *

The Mother of Oswald Says: "MY SON IS INNOCENT." They Doctored a Photo to Ruin Him.

"Lee Harvey Oswald, my son, was a victim of a trap. He was betrayed, killed, and then shamefully calumniated. I am convinced of it today.

"But the American press poisoned the public mind by printing indiscriminately false information furnished by the police and echoing fantastic rumors. The same attitude abroad was demonstrated by a French magazine, which put on its cover a photo of my son holding a rifle in his hand, having this caption: 'With this photo, there is no more mystery in Dallas.'

They Pasted On the Face

"How absurd! Tens of thousands of Texans and millions of Americans own rifles or revolvers. Millions of Americans have their pictures taken with their weapons in hand. This does not mean that they are potential criminals. On the other hand, there is no proof that this rifle was used to kill President Kennedy, or even that it was of the same type as the assassin's weapon.

"Furthermore, if my son intended to commit a political crime or if he already fired at a general, as they claim (1), he was intelligent enough not to leave such a photograph lying about.

Note (1): Lee Oswald is suspected of being the man who last year in Dallas attempted to kill General Walker, one of the heads of the John Birch Society, a rightist-extremist organization.

"Moreover, I doubt the authenticity of this document. My son was very thin since his return from Russia. But he appeared fairly heavy in this photo. I asked some experts. They told me that it seemed to be a composite picture. Apparently, the face of my son was pasted upon someone else's body.

"My daughter-in-law never talked to me about this photo during the weeks we lived together after Lee's arrest. Yet, we discussed the affair interminably, recalling the smallest details. She never made an allusion to this photo.

Absurd Stories

"And then, three months later, she appears to have sold this document which could be used against her husband.

"The police minutely searched my daughter-in-law's belongings as well as mine, seizing all our photographs. Why was that one not published immediately? Why would one wait for three months before revealing it? It is curious that this document was put in circulation at the moment when serious doubts were expressed in the Warren Commission and when new testimony tended to establish my son's innocence.

"Newspapers spread the most absurd stories about our family. We were good and loyal Americans. We never had a brush with justice. Lee never was in trouble. My children were and still are patriots. My three boys joined the Army as volunteers. One of my sons has been a career army man for fourteen years.

"I was born fifty-five years ago at New Orleans. My father was of French origin. His name was Jean Claverie; he spoke French all the time. He was one of the first streetcar conductors in the city; those famous streetcars which we see in films. He was a model employee. My mother was of German origin; her name was Dora Stucke. As soon as I completed my high school studies, I started to work as a secretary for a lawyer.

"In 1929, at the age of twenty-one, I married Edward J. Eic (sic). He was a railway porter. He left me after I had my first-born, John Edward, now a sergeant in the Air Force. We were divorced in 1932. The following year I married Robert Edward Lee Oswald, a young man of Irish origin, who was in the insurance business.

General's Given Name

"My first born Robert (sic) works today at a brick and cement factory. My husband and I were very happy.

"Alas, he died in August 1939, of a heart attack, a few days before Poland was invaded by Hitler. I expected a child at the time, the one whom I named Lee Harvey. He was born a few months later, on October 18, 1939. The name "Lee" is traditional with the Oswald family, in honor of General Lee, Commander in Chief of the Southern forces during the War of Secession (sic), a hero for all patriots. Harvey was the name of my husband's mother.

"It was not easy to raise three small children by myself during the war, but my youngsters did not lack anything. Lee was an extremely intelligent child for his age, to the point that parents in the neighborhood were jealous.

He Cut Classes

"In 1945, I married for the third time. He was an engineer from Boston, Edwin A. Ek Dahl. The two eldest boys were sent to a military college. Lee stayed with me. After my divorce in 1948, I went to join my son Edward, who was stationed in New York.

"We lived modestly. I had to work hard, but Lee was not unhappy. What he, who had grown up in Texas, missed was the great open spaces and the fresh air. He was suffocating in the midst of skyscrapers and under the elevated railroad. He was bored in class, where his comrades were less advanced than he. Fascinated by the zoological gardens he "cut" classes to see the animals in their cages. It was his passion. When it rained, he read in the public libraries.

"New York authorities are very strict with school children who skip classes. In Texas, teachers close their eyes to it. In New York Lee was brought back to school by a policeman and reprimanded. But he stayed away from school again. This time he was taken, as the law demands, and brought before the judge who sent him to a "rehabilitation" school.

"Subsequently they returned him to me and advised me to go back to Texas, for New York was a very hard place in which to live, for a child who needed the open air. Thus, we returned to New Orleans. Not once did Lee cut school and easily earned his high-school diploma.

Recruited by the C. I. A.

"No one has ever told me that he was examined by psychiatrists and that it was discovered that he could be dangerous. What a ridiculous invention! If it were so, why did they return him to me? Why didn't they treat him?

"If Lee was an unbalanced boy, a delinquent, would they have accepted him at sixteen in the ranks of the Aviation Cadet Corps, i. e., in the student pilot corps of the U. S. Air Force? They require from the members of the Cadet Corps moral and physical qualities of future officers. If my son had a tainted medical record, he would not have been admitted among the cadets.

"I am making public, at the same time as this statement, a photo of my son Lee in a cadet uniform stressing the fact that police, who so generously distributed other documents, had this one carefully hidden. No doubt, it did not fit in with the image of Lee they wanted to create.

"Lee was sixteen years old when he wanted to enlist in the Marines. The circumstances in which he chose this elite branch of service,

in my opinion, are in glaring contradiction to reports, according to which, Lee frequented with communists at that time, and was, himself, a 'red' and an admirer of Karl Marx.

"For my part, and taking into consideration what I know about the life of my son, I think that, on the contrary, he was recruited by the C. I. A. (2), that he was sent by this organization to Russia, then to Dallas to infiltrate subversive organizations and - who knows - to expose a conspiracy against Kennedy.

Note (2): C. I. A. : Central Intelligence Agency, American federal intelligence and counterespionage organization.

"This is a theory, but it seems to me that it conforms to my son's conduct from the day in 1954, when he came home accompanied by an officer in uniform.

"This officer told me that the country needed boys like Lee - alert, educated and loyal - and that I should let him enlist in the Marines, despite his youth. I hesitated a little, then gave my consent.

"But military authorities thought later that Lee was a little too young and delayed his enlistment by six months. Lee brought to the house a big volume, 'The Marine Training Manual,' and learned it by heart to such a point, that I teased him calling him 'general.' In my heart I was proud of him.

"At the same time that he studied the Marines' manual, Lee read 'Das Kapital' by Karl Marx. I have never asked him questions on this subject. I was sure that military authorities - who supervised the training of my son - required him to study this work. The Marines are an expeditionary force and I suppose that officers expected to make a type of intelligence agent out of Lee and that they asked him to gather documentary evidence on communism. This is a current practice for candidates for the C. I. A.

A Happy "Marine"

"Sure enough, Lee never told me that he worked for an espionage agency and I never asked him about it. But since when does a secret agent reveal his true profession to his mother? Did the parents of pilot Powers, brought down in Russia while he was at the controls of his U2 reconnaissance plane, know that their son worked for the C. I. A. ?

"No one came forward to say that Lee was an intelligence agent. But is it not a rule in the secret services never to divulge the name of those who work for them? It is possible that even now, in order to track down the real criminals, Lee's superiors keep silent.

"The fact remains that, when he became seventeen years old, Oswald enlisted in the Marines and was sent to camp where he specialized in electronics and aviation. The Chief of Staff of the Marines sent me a diploma, told me that I should be proud to be the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald and suggested that I frame the diploma and hang it on the wall.

"Lee was always very happy to be in the Marines. All his letters showed his enthusiasm. When he was on leave he wore his uniform all the time. He repeated on every occasion how proud he was to be a Marine. He sent me money from time to time and presents from foreign countries such as the Philippines and Japan. If he had difficulties in the service, I never knew anything about them. His 'bad conduct' seems to me an invention. The fact was that he was promoted to the rank of corporal.

"I wish to straighten out another error here. The press stated that my son appeared to have been decorated as a champion carbine marksman. What a fib! It was not my son but his battalion which was decorated. It was a collective decoration for the whole team. There is nothing to prove that Lee was the best shot of the battalion or even that he was an excellent marksman.

A Bed in the Kitchen

"After returning to California from Japan, Lee often telephoned me. Thus he learned that I had an accident. I wanted to hide it from him, so as not to worry him. I was then a department manager in a store at Fort Worth, Texas. A big glass demijohn fell on me from above and I was seriously injured. I had to go to a hospital, for an X-ray examination, and all this cost so much. I was not insured. I had to sell my furniture. I lost my job.

"Lee sent me a telegram saying that he had been in contact with the Red Cross concerning me. Later on, in September 1959, he came home. He had an emergency discharge because of my illness. This procedure is called 'dire (need) discharge' (discharge because of necessity).

"I put a bed in the kitchen and Lee slept there.

While Reading a Newspaper

"Next morning he said to me: 'Mother, I made a decision. I am going to work on a cargo boat. I wish to engage in export and import. I would not be able to earn enough money here.'

"On the third day he said good-bye to me.

"I was stunned by this sudden departure. And now I think that it was impossible for him to decide like this, in one night, to go to Russia. He must have received an order.

"Lee left me one hundred dollars. One week later he wrote to me from New Orleans that he was shipping out on a boat going to Europe.

"It was only in November 1959, when reading a newspaper, that I learned that my son was in Moscow and that he wanted to renounce his American citizenship.

"Borrowing some money I got together the sum necessary to take me to Washington in order to obtain my son's address. They gave it to me: it was Hotel Metropole. I wrote to him and he replied: 'Mamma, please send me some money.' With the return mail I sent him a check for twenty dollars. He wrote to me for the second time in June, 1961, to tell me that he had just gotten married.

"Afterwards he wrote to me more often, telling me about his life, his wife, a new-born child, and small daily problems. He wanted books, shaving soap, razor blades; but he also sent me some presents: a shawl, some figurines, and many photos. He never talked about politics and never about his plans.

"Later he wrote asking me to help him return to Texas. I took some steps without success. Where did Lee find money for a trip? At the U. S. Embassy in Moscow which gave it to him and returned him his passport, which seemed logical if Lee was an intelligence agent.

"It appears that the Soviets conveyed to the American Government my son's file. But they denied me the right to consult this file. I am going to the Soviet Embassy myself shortly in order to ask the Russians for this file. It proves, I am sure, that the communists discovered that Lee was an American agent.

A Colonel's Niece

"My son, his wife and little daughter lived with me for over a month after their return. Marina Nikolaevna was pretty and charming. I always had good relations with her. It is not true to insinuate that there was coldness between us or that Lee went to live elsewhere because of that. Lee was always independent as are we all in our family.

"Marina has never repudiated the Soviets. She has never renounced communism. She was born at Arkhangelsk but grew up in Leningrad where she went to school. Her father and mother are dead but she has an uncle, a retired Red Army colonel. She went to the university. She is a doctor of pharmaceuticals (sic).

"I have to destroy here two legends. The first one alleges that Lee learned Russian because he was a Marxist. Lee learned Russian during his service in the Marines. His teachers were military men and the course was a part of military training.

"According to the second, Lee did not want Marina to learn English. It would be ridiculous for a husband to forbid his wife to learn the language of a country where she lives.

"The fact is that Marina spoke English badly, but she did speak it, and so we could chat together all day.

"She told me that she loved Lee deeply, was attached to him forever, and devoted to his child. However, there were moments, it is true, when she talked of returning to Russia. One time I saw her come in with a black eye. 'It was Lee who did this to me,' she confessed to me.

"Lee told me that he adored his wife. He did not earn much; however, he bought her a gold ring with a ruby, ruby being Marina's birth stone. Lee often occupied himself with the baby; pampered her; told her stories. He was a very good father.

"Later they left me. I did not see Lee and Marina again for almost a year. He had finally found a job in a factory. Marina cried with joy. 'Thank your God; Lee is working,' she said to me.

"On November 22, 1963, at three thirty, I was returning to my home in Fort Worth, having finished my work. I was then employed as a nurse. I was driving in my car. I turned on the radio. They announced the death of Kennedy. I was upset because I admired the President. And then there was this frightening shock: the arrest of my son."

* * *

Next Week:

"THE DAY BEFORE MY SON'S MURDER,
A POLICEMAN SHOWED ME A PICTURE
OF RUBY AND ASKED ME:

'DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?'"

(Copyright "Le Nouveau Candide" and Arnaldo Mondadori, Milan.)

Captions of pictures appearing in the text:

Page 1 (from left to right):

1. "For Marguerite Oswald, her son Lee is innocent. He was betrayed and calumniated."
2. "At fourteen, Lee Oswald preferred walks in the neighboring zoo to school."
3. "In the eyes of his mother, Lee Oswald at the age of 16 was a well-behaved young man, affectionate and industrious. There was nothing unbalanced about him, she said."

Page 5:

1. "Lee Harvey Oswald at 16, in his uniform of the U. S. Air Force cadet. This photo was entrusted to us by Oswald's mother. According to her, police had good reasons to keep it secret."

A statement in large type under this picture: "THIS PORTRAIT PROVES THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN PATRIOT."

2. "Mother Oswald was a nurse. She was dismissed after her son's arrest."

A statement on the left of the picture: "HE WAS NOT UNBALANCED AS THEY SAID."

3. "At 17, Oswald enlisted in the elite Marine Corps."

Statement on the left of the picture: "A CHAMPION MARKSMAN OF THE MARINES? THIS IS FALSE."

Statement on the right of the picture: "HE READ MARX AT 16, BUT ON ORDERS."

4. "His diploma was sent to his mother 'so that she could frame it.'"

Page 6:

"At 11, Lee Oswald (on the bottom, smiling) attended a school at Fort Worth, Texas. His teacher judged him very intelligent."

TO: SAC,

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu | <input type="checkbox"/> New York City | <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa | |

Date April 29, 1964

RE: **LEE HARVEY OSWALD**
IS - R

- For information For appropriate action Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks: *Re Bulet 4/23/64 to WFO (copy to you) and Paris let to Bureau 4/13/64 same caption.*

100-10461

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *Brut*
INDEXED _____
FILED _____
FBI - DALLAS

Enc. **2**
Bufile **105-82555**
Urfile **100-10461**

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 4/30/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Inspector JAMES MALLEY advised today that he and BELMONT had been up and talked with the Commission, and that FAIN, HOSTY and QUIGLEY should familiarize themselves completely with what is in the file that they had anything to do with and be completely familiar with what they did. If there were any instructions issued from Headquarters upon which they based their action, then they should know that. He suggested that someone review the file and determine what FAIN should know, and that it was permissible for me to let him look over that portion of the file that he worked on while he was an Agent. Of course, he should not be given anything afterwards.

I called SAC RIGHTMYER in Houston and suggested that FAIN might want to come up early Sunday and I would make arrangements to let him go over his reports, etc. RIGHTMYER called back and stated FAIN would be here early Sunday morning and contact me.

3 - Dallas
JGS:mfr
(3) *mfr*

Have left

100-10461-5792

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mk</i>	FILED <i>D</i>
FBI - DALLAS	

Henry

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SHANKLIN

FROM : SECTION CHIEF
WILLIAM BRANNIGAN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka.
IS - R - CUBA

DATE: 3/19/64

MR. BRANNIGAN telephonically advised this date, approximately 8:40 A.M., that there are new requirements of the President's Commission. He referred to memorandum 3/16/64, and stated that in view of these circumstances, it is recommended that the Special Agents be continued on special assignment at the Dallas Office and that at the conclusion of two weeks, SAC SHANKLIN will either release or justify their continued use. MR. BRANNIGAN said DIRECTOR says O.K.

MR. BRANNIGAN advised - set yourself up a tickler now about the 30th, and if you will come through with a teletype on the 30th or a letter we will go over the whole thing again. What we did in the memo that we sent up and was approved for your guidance on the thing, we showed that through 3/16/64, it was necessary to utilize the services of 26 Agents. As of 3/16/64, the services of 24 Agents, and had 75 outstanding leads. Then we went into that business about GAUTHIER arriving; the three Agents assigned full time handling RUTH and MICHAEL PAINE, and two Agents handling MOHRENSCHILDT. Also, conducted an up-to-date investigation in the RUBY case. All of these things went into that memo that we sent.

MR. BRANNIGAN mentioned again to set up a tickler and he would wait for an answer.

(2 - Dallas (100-10461)
JGS:HM
(2) 11

100-10461-579

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 19 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (100-10461)

DATE: 3/30/64

FROM : SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

8 Head/Quarter

The following is a resume of the amount of work now pending in the ASSASSINATION and related LEE HARVEY OSWALD cases. At the present time, Special Agents WULFF, NEELEY, HEITMAN, and myself are working full time on the ASSASSINATION and OSWALD cases. This is separate and apart from the RUBY case, the DE MOHRENSCHILDT case, and the PAINE cases. From time to time other headquarters city agents are called upon in order to fulfill a short deadline set by the Bureau. This may vary from use of anywhere from 2 to 10 headquarters city agents on a short-term basis.

There are presently 9 Agents here on special. A breakdown of the outstanding leads in the ASSASSINATION and OSWALD cases follows:

55+ leads

Headquarters City-35 leads plus one lead to identify a laundry mark in the jacket of LEE HARVEY OSWALD which may be a short-lived lead or could require considerable investigation.

Resident Agencies-There are presently 20 leads outstanding in resident agencies.

The flow of incoming inserts from other offices is increasing considerably as a result of recent instructions sent out to other offices. This is material for ASSASSINATION captioned report, one of which was sent 3/30/64 and it is anticipated that another such report should be assembled and submitted within the next 2-3 weeks.

In the meantime, every effort is being made to get another report out in the OSWALD captioned case during the current week or the first part of next week bearing in mind that the forecoming move to new office space may make this a difficult problem.

It would appear that in the event additional projects of considerable magnitude are not forthcoming during this week, that by the end of the week, approximately four or more of the Agents on special could be released.

2 - Dallas
RPG:les
(2)

1 - [unclear] [unclear]

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MAR 30 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

Gemberling

100-10461-5794

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-10461)

DATE: 5/1/64

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

I advised Inspector JAMES MALLEY today that former Agent FAIN is coming up to Dallas early Sunday morning and that I would go over the stuff with him; also, that SA QUIGLEY is in Dallas on leave and will be going to Washington from here.

I advised that FAIN had not yet received his transportation and that he was leaving Houston early Sunday morning. Mr. MALLEY said he would check re FAIN's transportation and advise me.

*Malley advised commission
said STR mailed Fain
at home address AMSD
4/30/64 - SAC Hamilton
advised 5/1/64*

(2 - Dallas
JGS:mfr
(2) *mfr*

DM

100-10461-5778

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MAY 1 - 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

Shanklin

OSWALD

WAS A

LIBERAL

BEFORE HE

BECAME A

COMMUNIST

Handwritten: Oswald, Communist

Handwritten: 100-10461

Handwritten: The NUTS ARE

Handwritten: HERE

Handwritten: Copy of Ripley's letter to the... P.M.

MAY 1 - 1964
FBI - DALLAS
Switzer

CHARLES H. RIPLEY
3801 Cole Ave., Apt. 201
Dallas 4, Texas

Gentlemen:

The enclosed came addressed to Radio Station WRR. It was placed on the bulletin board with the written comment you see. I took it down and was about to throw it away when I decided that perhaps you might be interested in such material and its source.



WRR RADIO
Fair Park
Dallas, Texas

67b

100-104-82

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MAY 1 - 1964	
FBI - DALLAS	

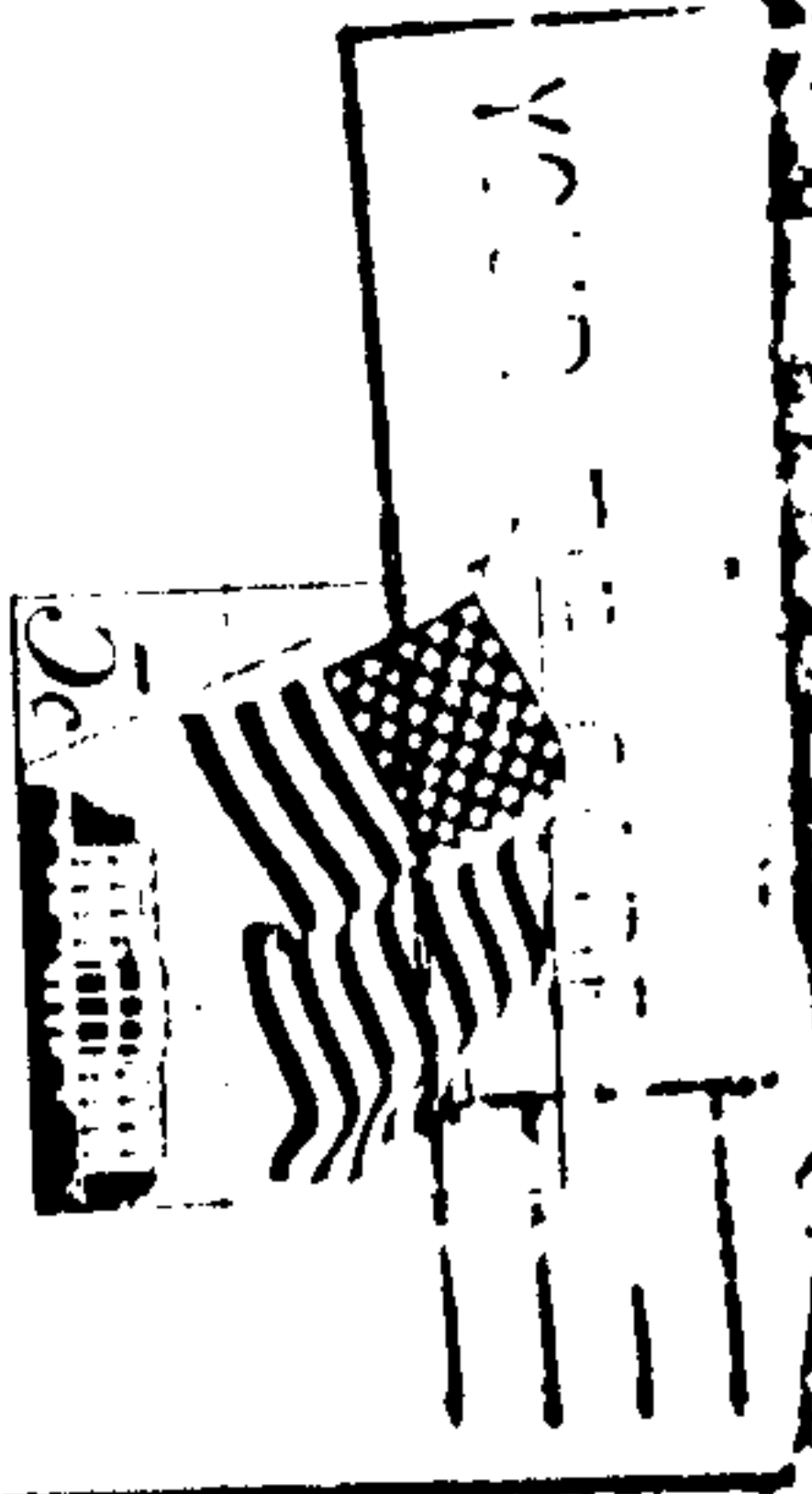
Ludger *PKM*

WRR 1310
FAIR PARK • DALLAS, TEXAS

PM
28 APR
196A

Federal Bureau of Investigation
1114 Commerce
Dallas, Texas

PM
28 APR
196A



THE OSWALD AFFAIR

LÉO SAUVAGE

ON THE DAY after the murder of President Kennedy, a New York lawyer, commenting on the case against Lee Harvey Oswald as it had been revealed up to that point, was quoted in the *Journal American* as saying that "The District Attorney has a suspect, but not much more." As a Frenchman, I thought it a strange coincidence that this lawyer's name should have been Emile Zola Berman. Unlike the suspect whom the first Emile Zola brought back from Devil's Island, however, Lee Harvey Oswald, even were he to be proved innocent, can never be brought back from the place to which he has been sent. But *could* he be proved innocent? If we believe that a man must be considered innocent until he is proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, we can already assert that Lee Harvey Oswald *was* innocent. For to the unbiased, critical mind, the case against him is a tissue of improbabilities, contradictions, and outright falsifications.

Is this a hasty judgment? Instead of saying "already," which suggests that any further information we get will strengthen my own impression of Oswald's innocence, should I not at least have said "still," implying that new evidence may yet be brought forward to sustain the almost universal American conviction of Oswald's guilt? Such prudence would certainly be the only proper attitude to take in any other case. But not in this one. All the available evidence against Oswald has either been leaked or eagerly and even ruthlessly spelled out, whether true, half true, or demonstrably false, whether pertinent, confused, or obviously irrelevant. So far as Dallas is concerned, the case was proclaimed "cinched" by Chief Will Fritz of the Homicide Bureau as early as November 23, one day after the assassination. The following day, only two hours after Jack Ruby had disposed of Oswald in the basement of Dallas Police Headquarters, the case against him was declared "closed" by Police Chief Jesse Curry and by District Attorney Henry Wade.

"Less evidence." That same evening, in a televised press conference whose transcript will stand forever in the international annals of justice as an example of fantastic irresponsibility, Wade spoke the final word for the Dallas authorities: "I would say that without any doubt he [Oswald] is the killer . . . there is no question that he [Oswald] was the killer of President Kennedy . . ."

Of course, there is still the as yet uncompleted investigation of the Presidential Commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. May it not turn up new evidence? It is difficult to see how.

The Warren Commission, though it has its own legal staff and the right to subpoena witnesses, will nevertheless depend for its technical information on the FBI investigation, and the results of that investigation, though officially still confidential, have already been revealed to the world—and revealed, apparently, before the Warren Commission even received the FBI report from the Justice Department. On December 3, while dutifully publishing a statement by a Justice Department spokesman announcing that the FBI report had not yet been sent to the Attorney General for submission to President Johnson, the evening papers nevertheless felt confident in coming out with enormous banner headlines like "OSWALD LONE KILLER, FBI REPORT TO PROVE IT" (*New York Journal American*).

The stories quoted anonymous "government sources," but the identity of these sources was no mystery at all in Washington: the FBI itself had leaked the "probable conclusions" of its report even while the report was still being written. Six days later, on December 9, the Justice Department, acting on instructions from the White House, delivered the now completed report directly to the Warren Commission. Quite naturally, the Commission had asked that nothing be made public until it had reviewed the document and taken whatever action seemed appropriate.

100-10461-501

Thus, after the "press and television conviction" of Lee Oswald in Dallas, a second press and television conviction took place in Washington. And just as the Dallas authorities had forced the hand of any jury that would have heard the Oswald case, so the FBI has forced the hand of the Warren Commission. With the help of all the mass media, Oswald's guilt has now twice been sold to the public—despite the fact that no one has even so much as ventured to explain why a psychopathic regicide, acting (as we shall see) under circumstances that would make his capture inevitable, should renounce the ultimate satisfaction of gloving in his deed before the eyes of the world. I really do not see, therefore, why only those of us who are skeptical about the case against Oswald should await further information.

Before going on to raise some of the specific questions that Oswald's accusers should be forced to answer, let me make one final remark. I am a reporter and not a detective. Thus far, however, it is only the reporters, those "amateur investigators into the Kennedy assassination" whom Max Lerner in a recent column sarcastically advised to take "a much needed rest," who have shown up what Mr. Lerner himself described as "the tissue of guesswork, ignorance and contradictions in which the law enforcement officials were caught." In the face of so systematically prejudiced an investigation as has so far been made into the President's assassination, how else will the truth ever be arrived at if "amateurs" fail to ask the questions that the professionals have obtusated or left unanswered?

1. Did Oswald Have an Alibi?

Though there have been a number of interesting official variations concerning certain quite important details, it is now an undisputed fact that Lee Oswald was in the second-floor lunchroom of the Texas School Book Depository on Elm Street a very short time after three shots were fired at the Presidential motorcade from a window on the sixth floor of the building. He was seen in the lunchroom by two witnesses: the manager of the Texas School Book Depository, Mr. Roy S. Truly, and a motorcycle policeman who was the first officer to enter the building.

The fact of Oswald's presence on the second floor, it should be noted, was first presented to the public as evidence *against* him. In his unforgettable press conference of Sunday, November 24 ("to detail some of the evidence against Oswald for the assassination of the President"), District Attorney Wade put it this way: "A police officer, immediately after the assassination, ran into the building and saw this man [Oswald] in a corner and tried to arrest him. But the manager of the building said he was an employee and it was all right . . ." In emphasizing that Oswald had barely escaped arrest "*immediately after the assassina-*

tion," the District Attorney was obviously trying to convey the impression that Oswald had virtually been caught red-handed. He therefore neglected to mention that the place in which Oswald was (as it were) "cornered" was the second-floor lunchroom; nor did he indicate that the police officer and the manager of the building had described Oswald as holding a Coca-Cola bottle in his hand. These details, however, had been announced the day before by Police Chief Jesse Curry, whose Saturday afternoon statement remains very intriguing. Chief Curry started by saying that he could tell from the sound of the shots that they had come from the School Book Depository, and that "right away" he had radioed an order from his car to surround and search the building. Then he told of the first officer to reach it, of this officer climbing the stairs together with the building manager (Mr. Truly), and of the two men seeing Oswald in the lunchroom. There were, he added, "other persons" in the lunchroom as well.

I can see only one explanation for the emphasis both Mr. Wade and Chief Curry placed on how soon *after* the shots Oswald was seen inside the building, and for the singular statement by Chief Curry—never repeated, but never corrected as a mistake either—to the effect that there were other witnesses to Oswald's presence in the lunchroom besides the motorcycle policeman and Mr. Truly. According to the version of the story given out by the police on Friday evening, Oswald had been stopped when leaving the building after the assassination, but had been allowed to proceed when Mr. Truly identified him as an employee. This version collapsed when Mr. Truly told the real story to the press, revealing that he had identified Oswald as an employee in the lunchroom, and not at the street door or on the sidewalk. Thus, there were no witnesses to testify to the exact time Oswald left the Elm Street building—and since this raised the possibility that he might claim to have left it *before* the crime, it became important to stress his presence in the building after the shots had been fired.

Chief Curry's statement that Oswald was in the lunchroom "among others" has never been retracted. But unless we are to impute criminal negligence, we must assume that on this point Mr. Curry was simply ill informed: if there really were other persons in the lunchroom at the time Oswald entered it and nobody bothered to question them about the exact moment and about his behavior, we could stop and draw our conclusions right now. For the exact moment that Oswald entered the lunchroom is of the very first importance in determining whether it was physically possible for him to have been on the sixth floor when the shots were fired.

All the reports we have—including the statements by Wade and Curry on television and those given to individual reporters—place Oswald in

the lunchroom an extremely short time after the crime. Bob Considine of the Hearst Press, for example, was told that Oswald had been questioned inside the building "almost before the smoke from the assassin's gun had disappeared." As for me, I have the direct testimony of one of the two witnesses, Mr. Roy Truly. When I asked him whether it had taken a long time for him and the motorcycle policeman to reach the lunchroom, he answered (apparently not realizing what I was driving at): "Oh, no! It was as soon as the last shot was fired when I saw the officer come running. As a matter of fact, it was so soon afterwards that I don't believe he was riding in the motorcade. He must have been off his motorcycle, standing nearby. Anyhow, it was right away after the shots. I knew they were shots, but had no idea they were fired from the building. I thought the officer wanted to get to the roof for a better look and I immediately offered to show him how. We ran to the freight elevators in the back of the building because the front elevators do not go beyond the fourth floor, but the two freight cars had both been left somewhere up in the top floors and we took the stairs, the officer ahead of me. When I reached the second-floor landing, the officer was already at the open door of the lunchroom, some twenty or twenty-five feet away. No, I couldn't tell you exactly how much time it took, all this, but it wasn't long . . ."

The obvious question, then, is whether there was enough time for Lee Oswald—if he fired the shots from the front window on the sixth floor—to run to the staircase in the back (that is, on the opposite side of the building), hide the gun, and go down four flights of stairs to the lunchroom *before* the motorcycle policeman and Mr. Truly saw him there, not panting, not looking suspicious, and probably sipping a Coke (which means additional time for getting it out of the vending machine and opening it).

We "amateur investigators" obviously have no means of doing that type of checking. But did the professional investigators—the Dallas police, the FBI, the Secret Service—do it? During the week following the assassination of Oswald, the FBI spent a lot of time in and around the Texas School Book Depository. Since the press was not allowed inside the building while the FBI was there, we do not know whether and how Oswald's movements immediately after the shooting were checked. But in order to find out whether Oswald had an alibi or not, it was not only necessary to get as close an estimate as possible of the time he would have needed to make his way from the sixth to the second floor. It was also necessary to find out precisely how much time elapsed between the last shot and the moment the motorcycle policeman and Mr. Truly saw Oswald in the lunchroom.

"I told them, as I just told you, that it was a very short time," Roy Truly answered when I

asked him whether there had been any special tests to determine the number of seconds he and the motorcycle policeman lost in the lobby with the elevators before starting to climb the stairs. When I pressed the point, he said: "No, nothing else . . ." And none of the many reporters and photographers who for days kept a close watch on the Texas School Book Depository, writing and taking pictures of the various re-enactments of the assassination staged on Elm Street, ever saw a motorcycle policeman running into the building under the eyes of detectives with stopwatches in their hands.

2. The Elm Street Building

Whoever planned to assassinate President Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository must have known that he would have almost no chance to escape. Since no other building in the area had the right vantage on the motorcade, his position would be revealed as soon as the shots were fired. Furthermore, with so many policemen around, he could be sure that the building would be surrounded and sealed up before he could possibly reach an exit on the ground floor. Not since the School Book Depository occupies a whole block, with a parking lot in back and no contiguous construction was there any way of escaping through the roof.

We know now, however because Lee Oswald walked out several minutes after the murder without being stopped or even noticed—that the building which Chief Curry had "right away ordered to be surrounded and searched," was *not* immediately surrounded and sealed up. We even know that through the monstrous negligence of the three police services involved, anybody could leave or enter—not only during the first few minutes, but later as well. Roy Truly told me that when he came back from the roof with the motorcycle policeman (after seeing Oswald in the lunchroom) there were "a whole lot of people with the officers on the second floor, at least fifteen or twenty persons." He described them as "reporters, photographers, office workers from the other floors, probably also outsiders, I guess." Even after the three doors of the building had finally been blocked off by the police, people who said they were employees returning from lunch were allowed to enter, and people who said they were reporters or showed a camera were allowed to leave. If the assassin was someone other than Oswald, and if, for some reason, he had not left the building during the long minutes when nobody was watching the doors, he could still have slipped away in the midst of all this traffic.

After such an incredible mess, it could not have been an easy job for the FBI to find out several days later who, among the ninety-one employees at least, had been in the building at the time of the murder. Witnesses had mentioned from the

beginning that there were several persons watching the motorcade from the windows of the fifth floor, and there may have been more watching from the other windows, as well as some who had remained in their offices. Who were these people and what light could they shed on the slaying?

"Carrying his Coke," said *Time* magazine, "Oswald ambled into a nearby office. A switchboard operator said, 'Wasn't that terrible the President being shot?' Oswald mumbled something unintelligible, went out of the office, walked down the steps and slipped through the crowd outside . . ." Never having heard of any switchboard operator in a nearby office until I read this account, I asked Mr. Truly about her. Yes, he confirmed, that was the story told to the FBI when on the following week they finally began questioning everyone who works in the School Depository. But, he added, it wasn't the switchboard operator who spoke to Oswald. It was another woman working in the same office, and yes, that office is "right next to the lunchroom." Did either of the two women notice the noise Oswald must have made in the corridor rushing in from the sixth floor? Mr. Truly didn't know. Nor did he remember whether the FBI had asked them

3. The Chicken Bones

Entering the storage room on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, the police found, near the window from which the shots had been fired, an empty cigarette pack and the remains of a meal: a piece of partly eaten fried chicken, some chicken bones in a paper bag, and an empty Coca-Cola bottle. Officially announced Friday afternoon on television by Captain Fritz, this discovery was published in every newspaper around the world and taken as an indication of the cold-bloodedness of the assassin who had calmly waited, eating chicken and smoking cigarettes (though there was no mention of cigarette butts), for the moment to shoot.

Nobody doubted that the person who had eaten the chicken was the assassin, and some expected the police to pump Oswald's stomach in order to prove that he was that person. Chief Curry, however, denied that there had ever been any such intention. He had enough evidence against Oswald, he said, to dispense with stomach pumps. But like Captain Fritz, Curry seemed perfectly convinced that the chicken was Oswald's, and on Sunday the FBI agent on the scene, Gordon Shanklin, made it final by informing Fred Powledge of the *New York Times* that a print of Oswald's left index finger had been found on the paper bag containing the chicken bones.

Meanwhile, in his eagerness to establish that Lee Oswald had been in the Elm Street building at the time of the murder, Captain Fritz had triumphantly announced to press and television that no fewer than six witnesses had seen Oswald there

shortly before the shooting. One of these witnesses, Captain Fritz said, had invited Oswald to come outside with him to watch the approaching motorcade from the street, and Fritz seemed to attach great importance to the fact that Oswald, after refusing the invitation, had asked that witness to send the freight elevator back up to him.

The chief of the Dallas Homicide Bureau did not explain how a hand-operated freight elevator could be sent anywhere without an operator in it, but in any event, side by side with the news of Oswald's chicken lunch, the papers printed the story of his having been seen by several witnesses only so short a time before the crime that the Presidential motorcade was already approaching. The contradiction was obvious, and significant, for if Oswald hadn't had enough time to have eaten that chicken between the departure of Captain Fritz's witnesses and the assassination, was someone else waiting and eating chicken near the sixth floor window from which President Kennedy was shot? Was that second man Oswald's accomplice? Or was he perhaps the real assassin in whose place Lee Harvey Oswald had been arrested?

I do not know whether the Dallas investigators spent any time pondering these dramatic questions. Nor do I know what laboratory tests, if any were made, on the remaining piece of chicken and the bones, in order, for example, to find tooth marks. (Captain Fritz could have learned about these possibilities in Soderman and O'Connell's handbook, *Modern Criminal Investigation* without waiting for Soviet criminologist I. Karpets to remind him of them.) Nor, again, do I know whether anyone in the Dallas Police Department thought of making plaster casts, or at least taking photographs, of the chicken leftovers before throwing them away. What is certain is that from Monday the 25th on, the chicken bones were never mentioned again. When, the following Wednesday, I expressed my concern over the question to Assistant District Attorney James Bowie in Dallas, he seemed not to share it at all. According to Mr. Bowie, Oswald was not the person who ate the chicken. This I had already assumed from Captain Fritz's witnesses. Moreover, Mr. Bowie said, and this I had not previously heard it had been discovered that the chicken was eaten and discarded near the window the day *before* the President was shot. Had the police found the man who had eaten it? Mr. Bowie didn't know.

This was on November 27. On December 8, the *New York Journal American* published a "step by stealthy step" account of the assassination in the form of a copyrighted story by Gene Roberts originally published in the *Detroit Free Press* and then syndicated to various other newspapers across the country. Somewhere in the middle of that story, the following lines appeared:

"The storage room seemed made to order for

an assassin. It was cluttered with rows of book cartons, some of them in stacks six feet high. Five depository employees had worked in the storage room until noon, covering its floor with plywood. One of them, Bonnie Ray Williams, walked near the window at the 10 o'clock smoking break, downed a bottle of pop, chewed on a piece of chicken. This killed the theory that the assassin had eaten while waiting in ambush."

This was the first I (or anyone else, I believe) had heard of Bonnie Ray Williams and the four other men who were working in the sixth-floor storage room until noon on the morning of the assassination. Neither Jack C. Cason, president of the Texas School Book Depository, nor Roy S. Truly, its manager, had ever mentioned them. On the day of the murder, indeed, Mr. Cason was quoted by the *Dallas Morning News* as saying that "President Kennedy's killer could have been holed up in that sixth story hideaway for as long as four days without anyone bothering him." Nevertheless, Mr. Truly has since confirmed Gene Roberts's modestly hidden scoop. "Maybe I left out a few things, talking to reporters," he remarked when I reminded him on the phone that he had never spoken of the workmen before. "Yes, I may have forgotten about it, there were so many things to think of, and everybody was so upset."

Well, maybe. But how is it that the police found Oswald's palm print, but no other, on a carton which, it now develops, must have been shifted back and forth during the morning by several different hands? And since it now also appears that Oswald could not, because of the exceptional activity going on there all morning, have used the convenient hiding places of the sixth floor, where did he keep his rifle from sight until noon? When did he take it out from where he had hidden it? How did he get it to the sixth-floor window in time for the murder without being seen?

Moreover, if Gene Roberts's story represents, as it seems to do, the present position of the Dallas authorities, one wonders how Bonnie Ray Williams convinced Assistant District Attorney Bowie that at the 10 o'clock smoking break on November 22, he was chewing chicken bones which, according to what Mr. Bowie himself told me, were already a day old.

4. The Italian Rifle

The rifle which killed President Kennedy, as all the world has been told, was a Mannlicher-Carcano 1938. As is well known by now, European experts including technicians of the Beretta Company which manufactured it and Italian army instructors who used it during World War II say that this type of rifle does not lend itself to three accurate shots within five or six seconds. Other experts in Sweden and the United States

—disagree. But practically every expert who thinks it possible for such a rifle to achieve so high a degree of rapid-fire accuracy also says that it would require a crack shot, one who was intimate with the weapon and was practicing on it constantly.

The first reaction of the Dallas authorities in the face of the onslaught by the European experts was to argue that Oswald actually had had much more than five or six seconds to fire the three shots. That was what Jim Bowie told me personally, and what Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker stated publicly: "Oswald had plenty of time, maybe twenty seconds . . ."

On November 27, Dr. Kemp Clark, one of the doctors who operated on the President at Portland Hospital, declared that the first bullet seemed to have hit Mr. Kennedy "just below the Adam's apple, at about the necktie knot." This information was immediately seized upon by the authorities as supporting Sheriff Decker's estimate of the time it must have taken to fire the three shots. The President, the press was now instructed, was hit the first time while his car was still on Houston Street, slowing down to make the sharp turn at Elm Street toward the underpass and Stemmons Freeway. The assassin then swung his rifle around in a ninety-degree arc, and following the car in his telescopic sight, caught up with it again from the back, well after the turn. Thus, according to this theory which the wire services rushed to skeptical experts in Italy and Austria—the assassin had at least ten to fifteen seconds between the first and second shots.

The same evening, however, speaking for the first time from his hospital bed, Governor John Connally, who had been hit by the assassin's second bullet, told a very different story. Here are his exact words, as taken from the broadcast recorded by the *New York Times*: "We had just turned the corner. We heard a shot. I turned to my left. I was sitting in the jump seat. I turned to my left and looked in the back seat. The President had slumped. He had said nothing. Almost simultaneously as I turned, I was hit, and I knew I'd been hit badly, and I said, 'I knew the President had been hit and I said, 'My God, they're going to kill us all.' And then there was a third shot, and the President was hit again . . ."

In other words, the first shot was fired *after* the corner had been turned, and the second followed "almost simultaneously." And if this were not enough to dispose of the twenty-second theory of the Dallas authorities, it collapsed completely when the motion picture film taken by a local amateur showed that the Presidential car was already on Elm Street, past the Texas School Book Depository, when the shooting started. Taking into account the speed of the film and the speed of the car (determined by several reconstructions of the fatal trip), the Dallas authorities finally arrived at what is today the official conclu-

sion, the three shots were fired in five and a half seconds.

But just as these same authorities, by trying too hard to place Oswald in the Elm Street building immediately after the assassination, came close to providing him with an alibi, so they now raised new difficulties for themselves.

On the day of the assassination, Dr. Kemp Clark and some of the other doctors who attended the President at Parkland Hospital had expressed a certain perplexity over the wound below the Adam's apple. They weren't sure, they said, whether this wound had been caused by the same bullet as the wound in the back of the President's head or by a different one. Dr. Clark personally explained to newsmen how the throat wound might be interpreted as the exit mark of the bullet which had penetrated the President's head from behind. Five days later, however, Dr. Clark decided that the throat wound was an entry mark. This interpretation supported the theory of the Dallas authorities that the first shot had hit Mr. Kennedy on Houston Street, and thus eased the problem of the Italian rifle. But it also left the Dallas authorities in an awkward predicament. "How," asked Richard Dudman in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on December 1, "could the President have been shot in the front from the back?"

Once more the answer came in the form of one of those leaks which a foreign correspondent working in this country quickly learns from his American colleagues are to be regarded as practically official, though no authority will either confirm or deny them. This time the wire services identified the authority in question as "a source fully acquainted with results of a post-mortem examination conducted at the Bethesda, Maryland, Naval Hospital."

According to this unofficial-official report, the first bullet had actually struck the President in the back, penetrating two or three inches without damaging any vital organs. The reason this wound had not been discovered at Parkland Hospital was that the doctors there were busy trying to save the President's life and that meant attending first to the head and throat wounds. These two wounds, the unofficial-official report now stated, confirming Dr. Clark's initial hypothesis, had been caused by a single bullet which had entered through the back of the head and exited below the Adam's apple.

This took care of Richard Dudman's question. But the autopsy report provided yet another confirmation of the shortness of time in which the three shots were fired, and so the Dallas authorities still had to explain how a man like Oswald could have fired three so accurate shots in such record time with the Mannlicher-Carcano 1938 found near the sixth-floor window of the Elm Street building. Lee Oswald was considered a good shot during his service with the Marines, but far from a champion, and even a champion,

everybody agreed, would have to practice regularly to do as well as President Kennedy's assassin did. Consequently, since Oswald received the Italian rifle on March 20, if it could not be proved that he had been practicing assiduously from then until shortly before November 22, it would really be difficult to make the case against him convincing. For how could a man whose Marine training went back four years nevertheless hit a moving target three times in five and a half seconds, shooting at an angle of 15 degrees with a second-hand bolt-action rifle without intensive practice? Yet for two weeks after the murder that was precisely what we were asked to believe—until December 6, when the *Dallas Morning News* reported that the police had found witnesses who had seen Oswald practicing with the Italian rifle on a nearby gun range. The range was quickly identified as the Grand Prairie Sportsdrome. The owner, a Mr. Floyd Davis, told reporters that he himself had seen nothing, but that four of his customers had noticed, and mentioned to him, a strange fellow who during the two weekends preceding the assassination had attracted their attention both by his expert handling of a foreign-type gun equipped with a telescopic sight, and by his irritating lack of manners in shooting crossfire at other people's targets. They had recognized this fellow as Lee Oswald when they saw him on television, Mr. Davis said, but they hadn't reported the information earlier to the police or the FBI because it hadn't occurred to them that the investigators would be interested.

Now, apart from the fact that Oswald spent his weekends with his wife and children in Mrs. Paine's four-room house in Irving and would therefore have had difficulty in getting away to the rifle range unobserved and carrying a gun, the credibility of the witnesses who have declared that they saw him is called into question by their having also seen him arrive at the wheel of a car. Oswald did not own a car, and according to Mrs. Paine, who tried vainly to teach him, neither did he know how to drive.

5. Bullets, Ballistics, and the Irving Gunsmith

Very pertinent questions have been asked and very dubious conclusions drawn in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *New Republic* about the number of bullets used by the assassin.

He is supposed to have fired three shots, yet anyone who looks carefully at all the statements made by various officials on the case will find that those three shots seem to have produced four bullets. The confusion is due to the mystery that for several weeks surrounded the bullet which struck Governor Connally. I have seen or heard four different reports on it, two of which say that the bullet "pierced" the Governor's thigh and two that it "lodged" in it. Choosing the latter version—and with good reason, since it was the one given

by Dr. Robert Shaw, Governor Connally's personal physician, on the day after the shooting. Richard Dudman in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, followed by Jack Minnis and Staughton Lynd in the *New Republic*, counted four bullets: one in President Kennedy's back, one found on a stretcher, one in fragments on the floor of the car, and one in Governor Connally's thigh.

In order to find out for myself, I called the Executive Mansion in Austin and got Julian Read, one of the Governor's aides, on the phone. Had the bullet "pierced" Mr. Connally's thigh or "lodged" in it, I asked Mr. Read? Or was the answer to this question considered a state secret? "No, there is no secret," he replied. "Please hold on just a moment." I held on, and a minute later he came back with a straight answer: "The bullet had splintered, and a fragment embedded itself in the thigh where it was recovered."

This settled the mystery of the four bullets but did nothing to settle another equally perplexing one. Both Chief Curry and FBI Agent Shanklin had said that ballistics tests made in the FBI's Washington Laboratories proved that *all three* bullets had been fired from "Oswald's gun." Yet how could this be when one of the bullets was splintered and when experts from all over the world including Soderman and the late Chief Inspector of the New York Police Department John J. O'Connell have made it clear that ballistic identification with the help of the comparison microscope is possible only "if the bullet has retained its shape or is only partly deformed"?

Here, too I tried to check at the source, but I was less lucky with the Justice Department and the FBI in Washington, D.C., than I had been with the Executive Mansion in Austin, Texas. A Public Information Officer at the Justice Department told me, after asking me to hold on, that all available information had been transmitted to the Warren Commission, that this included all reports on ballistics and other laboratory tests, and that nothing had been or could now be released by the Justice Department to the press. When I asked him whether I was to understand that all the statements which had been made in Dallas were without foundation, he quickly denied that this was what he had meant, and suggesting that I use my own judgment, he gave me the number of an FBI Public Information Officer who, he said, might be able to tell me something more.

The Public Information Officer at the FBI was expecting my call. He told me that all available information had been transmitted . . . etc. So far as the ballistics tests were concerned, they had been done at the request of the Dallas authorities and the results had therefore been communicated to them. What the Dallas authorities then did with the report or said about it was not the responsibility of the FBI. No, he could neither confirm or deny anything—that would be contrary

to FBI policy. Yes, I would have to use my own judgment.

Well, using my own judgment as twice suggested, I would say that the Dallas authorities could not have received positive ballistic identification of the fragmented bullet from the FBI, but that they gave the impression they had in order to make a better case against Oswald. Of course, if the FBI could identify only two out of three bullets as having been fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano found in the Elm Street building, it would not mean that the third one was necessarily fired by another gun, especially since this fragmented bullet was the one that hit Governor Connally. In contrast to the questions raised by Mr. Kennedy's throat wound, there has never been any controversy about the direction of the bullet that struck Mr. Connally. Indeed, the trajectory of the bullet through his body makes it the only one of the three which can be clearly traced back, if not to the rifle, at least to the sixth-floor window of the School Book Depository. Nevertheless, given the fact that part of what we were told about the ballistics tests was untrue, how can we be sure about the rest of it?

For that matter, how can we be sure about anything in this incredible investigation, when one of the strangest episodes in the story still remains to be cleared up? This episode involves an Irving gunsmith, Mr. Dial D. Ryder, who declared on November 28 that about a month earlier he had mounted a telescopic sight on a rifle for a customer named Oswald. Mr. Ryder remembered neither the man nor the weapon, but he had found a repair ticket—\$4.50 for drilling and \$1.50 for boresighting—with the name Oswald on it. The story made headlines, but soon someone remembered that the Italian rifle Oswald had received from a Chicago mail-order firm was supposed to have had a telescopic sight already mounted on it, and the Dallas officials who had given the big news to the reporters told them a few hours later to forget about it—it was just a mistake. Indeed it was a mistake, for once again the brilliant Dallas investigators had inadvertently stirred up inconvenient problems.

From the very beginning there had been some question about the rifle with the telescopic sight because of the price Oswald was said to have paid for it. Every newspaper in the world had already dozens of times mentioned the \$12.78 second-hand rifle used to kill John F. Kennedy, when a reproduction in the *New York Times* of the Klein's Sporting Goods ad showed that \$12.78 was the price of the "6.5 Italian Carbine" *without* telescopic sight, (item No. C20-1196). The same rifle "with brand new 4 Xscope" was listed as costing \$19.95 (item No. C-20-750). Besides, Oswald would also have had to buy item No. E20-751 ("6.5mm. Italian military ammo, 108 rds") which, together with a free 6-shot clip, amounted to another \$7.50. Captain Fritz, in answer to ques-

tions, said that the announcement of the price as \$12.78 had been an error, and that Oswald had received the gun "fully equipped, you bet." Mr. Milton P. Klein, President of Klein's Sporting Goods in Chicago, confirmed that the rifle sent to Oswald's P.O. Box in Dallas under the name of A. Hidell was the \$19.95 item with telescopic sight. Mr. Klein did not mention the ammo. Neither did Captain Fritz, and it may be noted here, as another curious detail of the case, that while the search conducted in Irving as well as in the North Beckley Avenue rooming house in Dallas produced a great number of letters, photographs, and other documents, not a single 6.5mm. bullet was ever announced as having turned up.

Under all these circumstances, the story of the Irving gunsmith was apt to reopen the whole question of the weapon, and there must have been a difficult moment that evening in Dallas Police Headquarters when this was realized. At first, some journalists were told that Oswald may have owned a second rifle, but this was not a very convenient way out either, because it meant that the police would have had to explain where he had kept it and where he had bought the other telescopic sight. And so the story of the Irving gunsmith was dismissed as a misunderstanding and he was never mentioned again.

There remains, however, something extremely disturbing about this episode which no serious investigation can ignore. Unlike other witnesses, Mr. Ryder did not say that he recognized or remembered Oswald, but only that he had come across a repair ticket with Oswald's name on it in his records. Now, Oswald is not Smith, Jones, or Brown. If Mr. Ryder's Oswald was not Lee Harvey, and if there was some other Oswald in Irving or nearby in October 1963, the police should find and produce him. If they cannot, and if it develops that someone who was neither Lee Harvey nor any real Oswald used the name of Oswald to get a telescopic sight mounted on a rifle by a gunsmith in Irving one month before the assassination of President Kennedy, a startling possibility would present itself: the possibility that clues leading to Lee Harvey Oswald were planted well in advance of the assassination.

But what if Mr. Ryder had misread the name on the repair ticket? This would have been a valid reason, the only valid one, for the police to have dropped the whole story. To check on this possibility, I called him and asked what exactly was the "mistake" or "misunderstanding" that had led Dallas officials to dismiss his story. "Well," he said, "you know that the gun Oswald received from Chicago already had a telescopic sight. So it couldn't be the murder gun he brought to me. It must've been another gun, or it was some other Oswald." But was he sure of the name on the repair ticket? Had he perhaps misread it? "No, no, the ticket is still here. It's Oswald. No first name or middle initial, but Oswald. Just Oswald."

6. Prints, Witnesses, and the Invisible .38

There is a fascinating passage yet another—in the transcript of District Attorney Wade's Sunday night press conference. This one concerns the question of prints on Oswald's Italian rifle:

"Q. What other evidence is there? A. Let's see . . . His fingerprints were found on the gun, have I said that? Q. Which gun? A. On the rifle. Q. You didn't say that. (. . .) Q. The rifle fingerprints were his, were Oswald's? A. Yes. . . . Q. Were there any fingerprints . . . ? A. Palm prints rather than fingerprints. Q. Were there any fingerprints at the window? Q. Palm prints on the what? A. Yes, on . . . Q. On the rifle? A. Yes, sir. Q. Where are they on the rifle? A. Under—on part of the metal—under the gun . . ."

In other words, there were no fingerprints. But why weren't there? If the Mannlicher-Carcano belonged to Oswald, one would expect his fingerprints to be on it, whether he killed the President or not. But if he *did* kill the President with this rifle, the absence of his fingerprints seems strange. Did he wear gloves? Not if we are to believe the District Attorney's statement that there was a palm print "on part of the metal under the gun." Did he, then, before hiding the rifle behind some cartons and crates on the sixth floor, carefully wipe the weapon clean with his handkerchief, though forgetting to wipe the metal under the gun? This is possible, but it would be curious that Oswald should have taken just this one precaution while neglecting all others to the point of carrying an identification card with the name A. Hidell on it in his wallet. Besides, if we assume that Oswald wiped the weapon we have to add a number of seconds to the time it would have taken him to get down to the second-floor lunch room—and this would enhance his alibi.

If someone else killed the President, of course, he would certainly have had the greatest interest in wiping the weapon clean, even if this meant destroying old fingerprints of Oswald's. In any case, the absence of Oswald's fingerprints on the rifle is by no means the only curious detail involving guns in this case. There is also the .38 revolver which, according to the Dallas authorities, Oswald used to kill Officer Tippit and with which he later tried to kill Officer MacDonald in the movie theater. While many things, true and false, have been said about the Italian rifle, no evidence whatever connected with the .38 has ever been given to the press. If the official investigators have tried to trace its origins, they have told us nothing about the results of their efforts. Nor have they ever established it as a fact that Oswald carried a revolver, or even owned one. It is true that on Tuesday evening, November 26, Captain Fritz suddenly "revealed" to newsmen waiting for him as usual on the third floor of Dallas Police Headquarters, that Oswald had confessed to ownership of the .38. This confession had never been

mentioned before, not even by District Attorney Wade (whose press conference was held on the evening of Oswald's death), and like several other "revelations" in the case, it was soon to drop out of mention again—presumably because the Dallas authorities realized that the world would be reluctant to accept Captain Fritz's belated word for a confession Oswald allegedly made during the two days of his interrogation by the police without benefit of counsel.

Given the combination of daze and ballyhoo that characterized the period immediately following the assassination, an atmosphere of credulity was created in which it was difficult for most people to be critical. Thus, for example, dozens of newspapermen reported, simply because Chief Curry or Captain Fritz had said so, that Oswald, after leaving the School Book Depository, rushed to his room on North Beckley to pick up a jacket and his revolver. The housekeeper, Mrs. Earlene Roberts, did indeed see him take the jacket, but she saw no revolver. (She had, by the way, never noticed a revolver or a holster in his room, though the police claim to have found an empty holster there when they first searched the premises on Friday afternoon.) Oswald is then supposed to have shot Officer Tippit when stopped by the latter—who was cruising alone in his car (and for unexplained reasons, outside his normal beat) some three miles from the place of President Kennedy's assassination. Could Tippit have recognized Oswald on the basis of a very vague description which, moreover, would not have mentioned the tan zipper jacket he had put on since leaving Elm Street? It seems unlikely, and yet when Donald Janson summed up "The Dallas Mystery" in the "News of the Week in Review" section of the *New York Times* on Sunday, December 1, he wrote without hesitation: "He [Oswald] killed the policeman, another mass of evidence shows . . ."

What mass of evidence? The police claimed they had three eyewitnesses to the shooting. Newsmen got hold of one of them, a Mrs. Markham, who described the man she saw shooting Tippit as "about 30, with bushy hair and a white coat." Oswald, we know, was not yet 24, had rather thin hair, and was wearing a tan zipper jacket. The police also named a Mrs. Davis, who said that she saw a man ejecting some shells from a gun while crossing her yard a short distance away from the murder, but she wasn't able to describe him. In his Sunday night press conference, District Attorney Wade had said: "Witnesses saw him [Oswald] eject the shells from a revolver and place reload the gun." Whoever told the police that he or she saw Oswald reload did them something of a disservice, for this testimony contradicts Captain Fritz, who, having thought at first that Officer Tippit had been killed by two bullets, took care to emphasize to newsmen on Friday afternoon that there had been

precisely two empty chambers in the .38 taken from Oswald at the Texas Theater.

BUT CAN WE at least consider it as an established fact that Oswald, whom neither Mrs. Markham nor Mrs. Davis could identify, had a revolver on him, with or without empty chambers, when he was arrested in the cinema? The policemen who made the arrest say that he did, though a jury might well be perplexed by the different accounts we have been given of how Oswald used the gun. Here again is Mr. Wade:

"Someone saw him [Oswald] go in the Texas Theater. A search was made of that later by a number of police officers. At the same time an officer of the Dallas police spotted him and asked him to come out. He struck at the officer, put the gun against his head and snapped it, but did not—the bullet did not go off. We have the snapped bullet here. Officers apprehended him at this time. (. . .) Q. Do you know why the gun . . . Q. Which officer? A. MacDonald was his name. Q. Why didn't it go off? A. It snapped. It was a misfire. Then officers subdued him—some six officers subdued him there in the theater, and he was brought to the police station here. Q. Mr. Wade, why didn't the gun fire? A. It misfired, being on the shell didn't explode. We have where it hit it, but it didn't explode. It didn't fire the shell. Q. There was one officer who said that he pulled the trigger, but he managed to put his thumb in the part before the firing pin. It didn't . . . A. Well . . . Q. Strike the bullet didn't explode. Is that . . . A. I don't know whether it's that or not. I know he didn't snap the gun is all I know about it. Q. You would say it was a misfire? A. It didn't fire. Q. Let's get the story again . . ."

The tenacious reporter did not get the story again, which may be just as well because it is hard to imagine how such a story could have been made clearer by the District Attorney. What could bring clarity, however, is the testimony of other witnesses, not connected with the Dallas Police Department. According to the cashier of the Texas Theater, there were perhaps twenty people in the audience when the police entered, and—as we have also been told they switched on the lights. Thus some twenty people, instead of watching a movie called *War Is Hell*, watched the arrest of a man whom they were later told was the assassin of President Kennedy. How is it that not a single one of these people has come forward, or been brought forward to give an impartial eyewitness account of the arrest? Since the arresting officers contradicted each other on what Oswald did with his gun, or on what they did with Oswald's gun, should not any serious investigation have made an effort to get the facts straight by questioning the witnesses who happened to be present?

Yet no witnesses have been brought forward to testify that Oswald was carrying a gun when he

was arrested. What is even more disturbing, no witnesses have come forward on their own to testify to the gun. For it is hard to imagine that some, at least, of the twenty moviegoers who had just had the adventure of their lives would not rush forward to tell the story of how Lee Harvey Oswald tried to shoot his way out of the theater. It is, however, possible to imagine that some of these twenty residents of the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, having seen no revolver in the hands of Oswald, might hesitate to stick their necks out by contradicting the police.

7. The Crosses on the Map

On Saturday evening, November 23, Chief Curry informed the world that on that very morning his men had discovered some "entirely new facts" which constituted "startling evidence" against Oswald. He refused to give any more details except to add in answer to a reporter's question that these new facts "did not pertain to the rifle." The next night, when District Attorney Wade (who had said he was "going through the evidence piece by piece") seemed to have reached the end of his press conference without mentioning Chief Curry's "startling" new discovery, a reporter asked him about it. "I don't know," Mr. Wade replied. "That wasn't me that said that, I don't think . . ."

A few hours later, the early city edition of the *Dallas Morning News* disclosed this "startling evidence," and on Monday morning, Mr. Wade, whom reporters had been unable to reach during the night, was ready to confirm its existence. Though he hadn't personally seen it, he said, the police had found in Oswald's room on North Beckley Avenue a Dallas city map with a line drawn on it tracing the trajectory of the bullets that hit the President on Elm Street. In addition to the Elm-Houston corner, two other locations of the parade route were marked by crosses, "apparently locations the assassin considered as possibilities."

My own first reaction to this disclosure was to wonder how even the maddest of assassins could leave such a document in his room—unless (unlike Oswald) he intended to boast about his act and did not mind dying for it. The second reaction was to wonder how even the most incompetent of policemen could have missed such a document when first searching the five-by-twelve foot room on Friday afternoon. It subsequently appeared, however, that the police hadn't missed the map (which Mrs. Paine later testified she had given to Oswald to help him when he was looking for a job) on their first search. According to the Friday evening edition of the *Dallas Morning News*, "FBI and Secret Service men grabbed up his [Oswald's] few belongings before the press arrived, but Mrs. Roberts [the housekeeper] said one thing she noticed was a map of Dallas."

Where was the map kept overnight? An interesting point, certainly, to be brought out by future official investigators. Meanwhile, we have Chief Curry's Saturday evening statement, from which we can conclude (in spite of the *Dallas Morning News* which mentions only "FBI and Secret Service men") that the map was kept at Dallas Police Headquarters.

Now, if the map was already marked when it was taken out of Oswald's room on Friday, why should this particular piece of news have been treated so uniquely as to have been kept secret until Saturday? In the second place, the possibility that someone got hold of the map between Friday evening and Saturday morning, shocking though it is, cannot be discounted when we consider the state of Dallas Police Headquarters on Friday and Saturday. Reporters—especially foreign correspondents—have told with retrospective amazement that they could go practically anywhere, sit on tables, use the phones, open drawers to look for a pencil or a piece of paper. No passes were checked, and all doors were opened at the mere sight of a camera, or even an extension cord wrapped around one's shoulder.

Furthermore, if the Dallas conception of legal decorum differs from that which prevails in most other places, so too is its conception of how evidence should be protected. Take, for example, the most important of all the exhibits in this case: the rifle. This precious piece of evidence was held up to the television cameras by a bare-handed Dallas detective in the third-floor corridor of Dallas Police Headquarters, before it was sent to Washington to be scientifically examined in the laboratories of the FBI. And then, in Saturday morning's newspapers, there was a photograph showing how this same piece of evidence—which was to be checked in Washington for marks, spots, prints, and traces—was carried outside, without any protective wrapping over it, by another Dallas detective who held it by its strap while the butt rubbed against his trousers.

Thus, there is nothing wildly improbable in the idea that someone might have got hold of the map, between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (when, as Chief Curry announced, his men first discovered it). The idea, indeed, that *Oswald* made these marks seems rather more improbable. Why should he have done so? At first it was thought that Oswald had studied various possible locations for the assassination before choosing the Elm Street building a theory to which credibility was lent by the fact that the President's visit to Dallas had already been announced (on September 26 in the *Dallas Morning News*) by the time Oswald took his job with the School Depository. This theory, however, collapsed when it was learned that Oswald got the job through no initiative of his own: an Irving neighbor mentioned to Mrs. Paine that there was an opening at the Texas School Book Depository,

and Mrs. Paine then informed Oswald and recommended him to Mr. Truly. Consequently, if Oswald was the assassin, he must have conceived the crime only after starting work on Elm Street (let us even say that the very location of the building offered a temptation to his unbalanced mind). If this is so, we can imagine him drawing a line on a map tracing the trajectory of the bullets he intended to fire from a window of the Depository. But what reason could he possibly have had to mark any other point on the map?

8. Questions And Questions

I have listed here some of the questions suggested by the manner in which President Kennedy's assassination has so far been investigated, and by the way Lee Harvey Oswald was convicted of the crime by the Dallas Police Department before being executed in the basement of its headquarters.

Many people, finding it hard to believe that the executioner, Jack Ruby, was acting out of an "irresistible patriotic impulse" when he shot Oswald, think that there must have been a link between the two men. Why? Why should Jack Ruby have needed to know Oswald in order to kill him? If he was acting on behalf of someone, all he needed to know was where to find his man and how to get him. Besides, the arguments that have been constructed to support the idea of an Oswald-Ruby team are rather childish. A mountain has been made, for instance, of the fact that the spot at which Oswald is supposed to have killed Officer Tippit was about halfway almost a mile between Oswald's room and Ruby's apartment. But this, of course, proves nothing; thousands of people live within a radius of a mile from that point. Nor can we attribute any significance to the night Oswald spent at the YMCA after his return from Mexico, just because a stripper at Ruby's club has said that Ruby sometimes went to the gym there. Several reporters even thought they had made a startling discovery of their own when they noticed that windows of the advertising department of the *Dallas Morning*

News (where Ruby was busy Friday at noontime revising an ad for his striptease joint when he should have been in the street expressing his devotion to John and Jacqueline Kennedy) command a perfect view of the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. But what is that supposed to mean? That Ruby was sending signals to Oswald?

I believe that the most important consequence of Oswald's death was not to close his mouth but to close his trial. For if Lee Harvey Oswald had ever had his day in court, with a good defense lawyer answering District Attorney Wade, cross-examining the Dallas police officers, and taking their witnesses over the coals, what might not have emerged?

Here is a last sample of Mr. Wade's press conference: "The next we hear of him is on a bus where he got on at Lamar Street, told the bus driver the President had been shot, the President. [He] told the lady all this was verified by statements, told the lady on the bus that the President had been shot. He said, 'How did he know?' He said a man back there told him. The defendant said, 'Yes, he's been shot,' and laughed very loud. Q. This was a lady? A. A lady. He then . . . asked the bus driver to stop, got off at a stop, caught a taxicab driver, Darryl Click . . ."

Reporters have checked this story (only 21 lines in the transcript). The actual facts (which neither Mr. Wade nor the witnesses he quoted have contested) are these:

(1) Oswald took the bus at Griffin Street, not Lamar Street. (2) He said nothing to the bus driver, C. J. McWatters, nor to any lady on the bus. (3) The driver learned about the assassination from an unknown man in the street when the bus ran into a traffic jam. (4) Oswald did not laugh, "very loud" or otherwise. (5) He got off the bus at the traffic jam, as did another person, asking McWatters for a transfer. (6) The driver of the cab he then caught was Bill Whaley, not Darryl Click.

Indeed: if Lee Harvey Oswald had ever had his day in court with a good defense lawyer answering District Attorney Wade, what might not have emerged?

TO: SAC, (

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- Mexico, D. F.
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Rio de Janeiro
- Tokyo

Date 4-30-64

RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA.
IS - R - CUBA

- For information
- For appropriate action
- Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Enclosed for your information are two copies of an article entitled, "The Oswald Affair" by Leo Sauvage, which appeared in the March, 1964, issue of "Commentary", a publication of the American Jewish Committee.

100-10461-5811A

This article was not furnished to the President's Commission, inasmuch as this magazine was readily available in the United States.

Enc. **2**
Bufile **105-82555**
Urfile **Dallas 100-10461**

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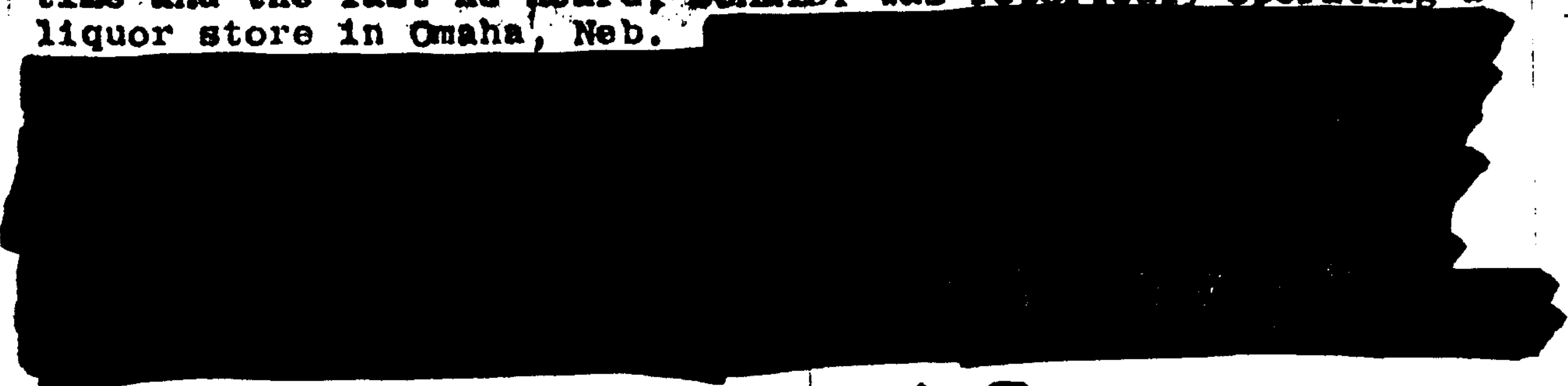
Air Mail

To : SAC, Los Angeles
From : SAC, Minneapolis (105-2564) (RUC)
Subject: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka
IS - R - CUBA

Re Omaha airtel to Minneapolis 4/23/64.

Enclosed to the Los Angeles Office is one copy of San Antonio airtel to the Omaha Office dated 4/17/64; one copy of FD-302 reflecting interview of PABLO REYES GONZALES by the San Antonio Division; and one photograph each of OSWALD and JACK LEON RUBY. Also enclosed is one copy of Omaha airtel to Minneapolis dated 4/23/64.

Sheriff RUSSELL BROOBERG, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, Fergus Falls, Minn., advised 4/29/64 that CHARLES SCHMIDT is the son of HERMAN SCHMIDT, who resides at 1102 East Vasa St., Fergus Falls, Minn. BROOBERG advised that CHARLES SCHMIDT has not been in the Fergus Falls area for a considerable period of time and the last he heard, SCHMIDT was reportedly operating a liquor store in Omaha, Neb.



- 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 5)
- ① - Dallas (100-10461)
- 1 - San Antonio (Info) (105-2909)
- 2 - Seattle (Enc. 3)
- 1 - Minneapolis

CLS:CK
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FBI - DALLAS	

[Handwritten signature]

MP #105-2564

LEADS

LOS ANGELES

AT BALDWIN, CALIFORNIA

Will endeavor to locate and interview CHARLES SCHMIDT through his wife, Mrs. CHARLES (PATRICIA) SCHMIDT, 14211 East Morgan, or through his parents-in-law, the HARM MEISTERS, specific address unknown in Baldwin, and conduct investigation in accordance with the leads set forth in Omaha airtel to Minneapolis dated 4/23/64.

SEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The basis for interview of CHARLES SCHMIDT or SCHMEDZ is that he departed Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, for the U. S. the same day as the departure of a person using the name LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

For the info of Seattle in case SCHMIDT should be located are photostats of Omaha airtel 4/23/64; San Antonio airtel 4/17/64; FD-302 dated 4/17/64.

Attempt to determine specific address for SCHMIDT from Mrs. CHARLES STENERSON, 18611 - 1st Avenue South, Seattle, and if determined, cause SCHMIDT to be interviewed.