

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. T. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

January 3, 1968

BY LIAISON

- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

Mrs. Mildred Stegall
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

*ASSASSINATION of
President John F. Kennedy*

In my letter to you of December 28, 1967, reported that news media for December 27, 1967, were featuring an account of a press conference conducted by New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison on December 26, 1967. During his press conference, Garrison allegedly stated that the indications are very strong that Lee Harvey Oswald was informing the Federal Bureau of Investigation that an assassination was contemplated. I informed you that Garrison's allegation was completely false and that I had testified before the Warren Commission on May 14, 1964, at which time I emphatically denied that Oswald had ever been engaged by this Bureau or acted as an informant in any capacity.

For your information, Station WVUX-TV, New Orleans, reported later in the day on December 27, 1967, that it had learned Garrison was basing his claim that Oswald had informed the Federal Bureau of Investigation of an assassination plot on President Kennedy on a telegram that Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly had sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation from Dallas, Texas, before the slaying. Garrison was quoted as saying he had contacted Western Union officials in Dallas who took the telegram from Oswald and kept a copy of it. Garrison was also quoted as saying that if he could get a copy of the telegram "it would break the case wide open" because it would prove Oswald worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Garrison was also quoted as saying that the Western Union agent would not reveal the file copy because he feared for his life.

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- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Walters _____
- Casper _____
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- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

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Mr. Mildred Stegall

During our investigation of the assassination, we received information that C. A. Hamblen, night manager for Western Union, Dallas, Texas, had claimed that an individual he believed to be Lee Harvey Oswald had visited the Western Union office in Dallas. Hamblen claimed this individual had visited Western Union on at least two occasions and once received a Western Union money order and on the other occasion sent a telegram to Washington, D. C. Hamblen claimed a fellow employee, Mrs. McClure, could verify his information. Hamblen was subsequently interviewed by a member of the legal staff of the Warren Commission under oath. Hamblen informed the Warren Commission representative he could not state for certain whether the individual in question was Lee Harvey Oswald or not. He furnished conflicting information to the Warren Commission representative and was unable to produce any evidence that Oswald had ever received or sent a telegram or money order through the Western Union office in Dallas. Mrs. McClure denied ever seeing Lee Harvey Oswald in the Western Union office.

A thorough check was made of Western Union records in Dallas for the period June through November, 1963, for money orders payable to Lee Harvey Oswald or his known aliases, O. H. Lee and Alek James Hidell, and for telegrams sent by Oswald or his known aliases. No indication of any such money order or telegram was found in any of these records. This fact was established by the Warren Commission through interviews under oath of: (1) Mr. W. W. Semingsen, an official of the Western Union office who had under his jurisdiction the operations of Western Union offices in eight states, including Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana; and (2) Mr. Laurance R. Wilcox, District Manager for Western Union in the city of Dallas, including the immediate surrounding towns. Both of these Western Union officials were positive and conclusive in their statements that Oswald never sent a telegram from Dallas, Texas, to anyone.

Complete details surrounding the allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald had been in contact with the Western Union office in Dallas, Texas, are set out on page 332 of the Warren Commission Report. In addition,

Mr. Mildred Stegall

the complete testimony of Western Union personnel who were interviewed by Warren Commission representatives under oath concerning such allegation is set out in the Warren Commission Hearings. The Warren Commission Report and the Warren Commission Hearings are available to the public.

Western Union officials testified that they placed no credence in Mr. Hamblen's allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald had visited the Western Union office in Dallas, Texas. Hamblen's immediate supervisor concluded that the whole thing was a "figment of Mr. Hamblen's imagination." In its Report the Warren Commission noted that it accepted this assessment.

I thought that this information would be of interest to the President. It is also being furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

Information contained herein was previously summarized in memorandum Mr. W. A. Branigan to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 12/29/67, captioned "Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas," prepared by REL:as.