

#110

United States Secret Service

Chief

May 27, 1964

SA Howard - White House Detail

Article entitled "Oswald case: A new angle," appearing in the May 9, 1964, edition of NATIONAL GUARDIAN, a New York newsweekly.

At the request of the Warren Commission, I was interviewed on May 27, 1964, by FBI Agent Carl E. Graham in the presence of Inspector Kelley of this Service, in connection with quotations appearing in subject article (copy attached) allegedly made by me on February 9, 1964, relative to the assassination of President Kennedy.

To the best of my knowledge, the following is a factual account of my activities on February 9, 1964.

On February 9, 1964, after delivering Mrs. Marguerite Oswald to Dallas Love Field from Fort Worth (see my M/R dated 2/10/64, SS Control No. 1161, Warren Commission), SAIC Sorrells, Dallas office; my brother Pat Howard, deputy sheriff of Tarrant County; and the reporting agent were having coffee in the airport coffee shop. We were joined by Mr. Theyer Waldo, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, who asked if he might "hitch a ride" with me to Fort Worth. Due to the fact that I was off duty and returning to Fort Worth in my private automobile, I agreed to let Mr. Waldo ride with me. While driving between Dallas and Fort Worth, Deputy Howard and I were riding in the front seat and Mr. Waldo was in the back seat. Both front windows were completely open and the wind was blowing strongly, possibly muffling the conversation going on in the front seat, which may account for Mr. Waldo's misunderstanding of the conversation.

Deputy Howard and I were discussing an incident which Det. Jack Bryan of the Dallas P.D. had told me on January 1, 1964, concerning a Negro male suspect who was questioned by the Dallas P.D. in connection with his being in the Texas Book Depository on the day of the assassination, and having left hurriedly sometime afterwards. When questioned as to why he left the Texas Book Depository in a hurry, the suspect stated that, since he had a police record, he would probably be suspected of involvement in the shooting. However, Det. Bryan stated that the suspect apparently had absolutely nothing to do with Oswald nor the shooting.

After relaying this story to Deputy Howard, Mr. Waldo sat up in the back seat (apparently having heard part of the conversation) and asked if

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J. M. [Signature]

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this man would be testifying before the Warren Commission. Not taking Mr. Waldo seriously, and not realizing he was a newspaper reporter, the reporting agent laughed and jokingly stated "Why yes, I'm sure he will be." Mr. Waldo then asked where this man was, to which Deputy Howard stated (in a joking manner) "They probably have him hidden-out someplace."

Upon arrival at Fort Worth, Mr. Waldo asked to be dropped off at the Star-Telegram office.

On this same day at approximately 10 p.m., a television broadcast was heard by the reporting agent, to the effect that a witness was being hidden by police officers who was to testify before the Warren Commission. Mr. Waldo's name was mentioned in this broadcast. A few minutes after the broadcast, the reporting agent received a telephone call from Inspector Kelley in Washington, D.C., asking if I had heard the broadcast and instructing me to find out whatever I could about it.

I immediately telephoned the Star-Telegram office and talked with Mr. Waldo, asking him where he had gotten his information as to the "hidden witness" mentioned in the TV broadcast, to which he answered "You don't have anything to worry about, I won't mention your name." Not immediately understanding that he was referring to the story Det. Bryan had told me, I said "That's fine, but who is this witness who is going to testify before the Warren Commission?" Again Mr. Waldo told me not to worry; that he had spoken with his lawyer who told him that it was all right to print the story. When I realized that he was referring to the story that Det. Bryan had told me, I told him that there had been a misunderstanding and that I was joking with him.

When the article appeared in the Fort-Worth Star-Telegram of February 10, 1964, I tried to get in touch with Mr. Waldo again, but he was not available.

The above incidents were made the subject of an O/M to SAIC Sorrels, dated February 11, 1964. I did not try to get in touch with Mr. Waldo again on the advice of SAIC Sorrels.

In connection with the quotations allegedly made by me and Deputy Howard, to my knowledge, at no time did Deputy Howard tell Mr. Waldo that he would give him information in regard to an unidentified witness to the assassination of President Kennedy; at no time did I refer to "that old black boy" going before the Warren Commission; at no time did I refer to anyone having seen Oswald or anyone else fire a shot from a window of the Texas Book Depository; at no time did I refer to a janitor in the Texas Book Depository; at no time did I tell Mr. Waldo that I had seen the Negro man in question in the custody of the Dallas police;

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and at no time did I state that a rifle had been found on the roof
of the Texas Book Depository which had been dropped by a Dallas police
officer.

James M. Howard
James M. Howard
Special Agent

Attachment

JMH:ml