

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ex-agent: letter left in Hosty's box

FORT WORTH (AP) — An agent assigned to the Dallas FBI office at the time of the Kennedy assassination said that he remembers "gossip" that Lee Harvey Oswald had left a threatening note for another agent.

The Dallas Times Herald reported Sunday that Oswald had left such a note and that the note was destroyed shortly after the assassination. The note was delivered after agent James P. Hosty twice attempted to interview Marina Oswald in early November.

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelly has issued a statement saying an investigation of the allegations tends to confirm the existence of such a note and its destruction. The FBI is investigating the matter.

Joseph L. Schott, author of the humorous book about the FBI, "No Left Turns," said Sunday that he understood that Oswald, in his note, "threatened to kill Hosty if Hosty tried to talk to his wife Marina again."

"Hosty put the letter in his work box — for incoming mail — and it was still there on the day of the assassination," Schott said.

He added that he didn't know what

happened to the letter but assumed it was destroyed.

"I don't know whether Shanklin knew about it or not but I know a lot of people in the office know about it and were talking about it," Schott said. He was referring to J. Gordon Shanklin, agent in charge of the Dallas office.

Schott speculated the letter was destroyed "because they were all so scared of Hoover." He said Hoover "would have second-guessed them all down the line" if he had known Oswald

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was not put under surveillance after delivering the threatening note.

Schott was assigned to the Dallas FBI office from 1959 until he retired in December 1971. Hosty is the Fort Worth resident agent most of that time, he said, adding that Oswald had grown up there and that Schott knew him by sight.

The chairman of the law enforcement education department of Tarrant County Junior College, Schott recently published the book titled "No Left Turns" detailing the FBI under former director J. Edgar Hoover.

"Big daddy operation" and "daddy knows best" are two phrases Schott uses in the book to describe the Hoover team. Fear and yuckie persuaded the bureau in the 1950s he was a special agent, Schott said, "... especially for those who wanted to get ahead."

The book reveals the seemingly endless maze of rules the agents lived by and started. The hundreds of rules multiplied as fast as Hoover found things he didn't like, Schott said.

The FBI has not officially reacted to his book but the college professor said those who might object probably have been sold on the idea of an infallible FBI.

"They don't like to have their beliefs disturbed," Schott explained. "All these other books were either one way or the other—caustic, with Hoover blamed for everything that ever went wrong in the Justice Department, or else of course."

"I just wanted to write a funny book," he explained in a recent interview.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Dallas Times Herald

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