

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/17/75

Mr. John P. Mohr, former Assistant to the Director, was contacted at his residence in Arlington, Virginia. He was told that this visit was occasioned upon instructions of the Director in that the Director wanted Mr. Mohr to know of the details of a conversation which Mr. James B. Adams, Assistant to the Director - Deputy Associate Director, had on September 11, 1975, with Sandy Smith. Smith, a Washington representative of Time Magazine, was the author of an article appearing in that magazine in its issue of September 15, 1975, which made reference to Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Mohr on September 11, 1975, furnished a sworn statement denying the allegation which appeared in this article to the effect that he had been responsible for the destruction of the note which Oswald had left at the Dallas Office.

Mr. Mohr was then told that during the discussion between Mr. Adams and Smith, Smith was informed that the article had troubled Mr. Adams because for the first time there was an allegation that could be construed as an institutional cover-up as opposed to a cover-up pertaining solely to the Dallas Office. Smith was also told that if he did not act in good faith in the preparation of that article it could be construed as being malicious and providing a basis for a charge of libel if untrue. Mr. Mohr was told of Mr. Smith's reaction to these comments in that he stated he had received information from four, five, or six separate officials, present or former, and was certain that the information was true. Smith defined an official as someone as above the level of a Special Agent and would fall somewhere in the range of a Special Agent Supervisor to a top official, either present or former. Mr. Mohr was told that according to Smith, he recognizes he may be forced to produce the identity of his sources through a libel suit or other action, and then they could tell their story as they told it to Smith, which would clearly show he acted on information from individuals who have in the past provided him reliable information which has been almost one hundred percent accurate in the past.

Mr. Mohr was most appreciative of receiving this information and wanted to thank the Director for his thoughtfulness. He stated that there is no question in his mind but that there are many people, both in and out of the Bureau, who hate him. Mr. Mohr noted that he was known as the Bureau's hatchet man for many years and he could understand why he was disliked. Mr. Mohr stated

Interviewed on September 12, 1975 at Arlington, Virginia

File # _____

by Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett and
Inspector George H. Menzel/wmj

Date dictated September 17, 1975

that in light of this and following news accounts of the Oswald visit to Dallas, somebody disliking him could have made up the story that he was the one responsible for the destruction of the note. Mr. Mohr said that he has no intention of filing a libel suit because of the high costs involved and the fact that he is already engaged in a suit which may prove financially burdensome. Nevertheless, he advised that if there was some way in which the Government could file a suit in his behalf, he would be more than willing to appear before any body, including a Grand Jury, and testify to the accuracy of his prior sworn statement in which he denied having any knowledge of the Oswald visit until it appeared in the newspapers two or three weeks ago.

In that connection Mr. Mohr also advised that in his statement of September 11, 1975, he noted that prior to reading an account of Oswald's visit and note in the Washington Post -- he wanted to correct this since he now recalls that there was an article in the Washington Star-News which resulted in his first knowledge of this matter.