

DALLAS, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 24, 1975

I, BARDWELL D. ODUM, BEING DULY SWORN, MAKE THE FOLLOWING
FREE AND VOLUNTARY STATEMENT TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ~~HAROLD N. BASSETT~~ *BD*
HAROLD N. BASSETT AND INSPECTOR J. ALLISON CONLEY OF THE FBI:

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AN ALLEGATION THAT LEE HARVEY
OSWALD APPEARED IN THE DALLAS OFFICE PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THAT HE LEFT A NOTE, AND THE NOTE WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY DESTROYED.

DURING NOVEMBER, 1963, I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DALLAS
OFFICE OF THE FBI AS A SPECIAL AGENT AND WORKED ALMOST FULL
TIME ON THE ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION AND WAS CLOSELY
ASSOCIATED WITH SA JAMES P. HOSTY. DURING THE DAYS AND WEEKS
FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 22, 1963, I ^{*BD*} WAS WORKING ON THE ASSASSINATION
INVESTIGATION. I WAS IN DAILY CONTACT WITH JAMES HOSTY AND
WITH SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE GORDON P. SHANKLIN, AS WELL AS
OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE DALLAS OFFICE OF THE FBI. I ALSO
INTERVIEWED RUTH PAINE, WITH WHOM MARINA OSWALD WAS RESIDING
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

I DO NOT RECALL EVER HEARING ANYONE STATE OR CLAIM THAT

BD

LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAD EVER BEEN IN THE DALLAS OFFICE OF THE FBI. I DO NOT RECALL ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH RUTH PAINE OR ANYONE ELSE REGARDING SUCH A SUBJECT. UNTIL CERTAIN NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY ABOUT THIRTY DAYS^{AGO, 20} I HAD NEVER HEARD ANY REFERENCE MADE TO A NOTE SUPOSEDLY LEFT BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD FOR SA JAMES P. HOSTY. I AM QUITE POSITIVE I HAVE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING EVIDENTIARY, GOSSIP-WISE, FOURTH-HANDED, OR OTHERWISE ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF ANY SUCH NOTE UNTIL THE YEAR 1975.

ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL IN DALLAS, TEXAS FROM RUTH PAINE, WHO STATED SHE IS NOW LIVING IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. SHE IMMEDIATELY ASKED ME IF SHE AND I HAD EVER TALKED ABOUT LEE HARVEY OSWALD BEING IN THE DALLAS OFFICE OF THE FBI. I TOLD HER THAT I COULD NOT RECALL ANY SUCH CONVERSATION. SHE STATED "I AM GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT." SHE THEN TOLD ME THAT HUGH AYNESWORTH OF THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD HAD CALLED HER AND ASKED HER ABOUT OSWALD BEING IN THE FBI OFFICE. SHE STATED THAT SHE TOLD AYNESWORTH SHE HAD NEVER HEARD ABOUT HIM BEING IN THE FBI OFFICE IN DALLAS. AYNESWORTH THEN READ WHAT WAS PURPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HER

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION, TO HER OVER THE TELEPHONE, IN WHICH SHE HAD TOLD THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD HAD CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN TO THE FBI OFFICE IN DALLAS, BUT THAT SHE LATER FOUND OUT IT WAS NOT TRUE AND THAT SHE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE "ANOTHER ONE OF LEE'S LIES." I ASKED HER IF THIS HAD JOGGED HER MEMORY. SHE STATED THAT HER REACTION WAS THAT THIS SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE SAID, ALTHOUGH SHE STILL HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENT ITSELF. AYNESWORTH THEN ASKED HER HOW SHE HAD CHECKED TO FIND OUT THAT THE CLAIM OF OSWALD WAS A LIE. SHE TOLD ME SHE SAID TO HIM, "THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION," AND THAT AS SHE PONDERED THIS QUESTION, SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF THAT THE ONLY SOURCE SHE WOULD HAVE HAD TO CHECK ON IT WAS THE FBI AND THAT HER PRIMARY CONTACT WITH THE FBI AT THAT TIME WAS ME AND THAT THEREFORE SHE FELT THAT IF SHE HAD CHECKED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH ME. THIS WAS THE REASON FOR HER TELEPHONE CALL AND SHE STATED THAT AYNESWORTH WOULD SOON BE CALLING ME AND THAT IT WAS ALL HER FAULT.

MR. BASSETT READ TO ME A PORTION OF A STATEMENT OBTAINED FROM SPECIAL AGENT HOSTY ON ²⁴⁰ SEPTEMBER 22, 1975, SPECIFICALLY

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THAT PORTION WHICH APPEARS ON PAGE NINE OF THAT STATEMENT.

IN ONE PORTION OF THIS PARTICULAR PAGE, HOSTY CLAIMS THAT I
HAD CONFIDED IN HIM THAT UPON BRINGING ^{TO MR. SHANKLIN 810} A ROUGH DRAFT, PREPARED
IN MRS. PAINE'S HANDWRITING, OF A LETTER THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD

HAD APPARENTLY INTENDED TO SEND TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND IN
WHICH HOSTY'S NAME WAS MENTIONED, MR. SHANKLIN STATED, "I
THOUGHT I TOLD HOSTY TO GET RID OF THAT NOTE." I RECALL

OBTAINING A NOTE IN MRS. PAINE'S HANDWRITING WHICH WAS A COPY
OF SOMETHING SHE HAD ALREADY TURNED OVER TO THE FBI. THIS,

I THINK, IS THE SAME NOTE THAT HOSTY'S STATEMENT TALKS ABOUT.

I DID NOT MAKE ANY STATEMENT TO MR. HOSTY AT ANY TIME THAT
GORDON SHANKLIN HAD EVER SAID ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT DESTROYING
ANYTHING OR TELLING HOSTY OR ANYONE ELSE TO DESTROY ANYTHING.

ANY STATEMENT BY ANY SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FBI PERTAINING TO
DESTRUCTION OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT IN ANY WAY BE CONSIDERED

EVIDENCE WOULD BE A MATTER WHICH WOULD BE SO UNUSUAL THAT I
WOULD NOT FORGET IT. I HAVE BEEN TOLD, ^{THAT MR. BDD} ACCORDING TO MR. HOSTY, SAID

THAT I HAD BEEN SENT OUT TO INTERVIEW MRS. PAINE ON LATE SATURDAY
NIGHT, NOVEMBER 23, OR EARLY MORNING HOURS OF THE 24TH, 1963,

TO VERIFY HOSTY'S STORY AS TO HIS INTERVIEW OF MRS. PAINE

AND MARINA OSWALD AND TO DETERMINE IF ^{HE} HAD IN ANY WAY MISTREATED

BDD

ANY ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

I DO NOT RECALL EVER MAKING A VISIT TO MRS. PAINE'S HOUSE AT SUCH AN UNGODLY HOUR. I DO NOT RECALL EVER BEING SPECIFICALLY SENT BY MR. SHANKLIN TO INTERVIEW MRS. PAINE EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION WHEN HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE "GO BACK OUT THERE AND BE SURE WE DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING." ON THAT OCCASION, I RECALL THAT MR. FULLER, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT, WAS ALREADY AT THE PAINE HOME WHEN I ARRIVED.

I HAVE READ THIS AFFIDAVIT CONSISTING OF THIS AND FOUR OTHER PAGES, INITIALED EACH PAGE, AND IT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Bardwell D. Olsen

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 24TH DAY OF

SEPTEMBER, 1975:

Harold N. Barrett

Asst. Dir. FBI.

J. Allison Conley
Inspector, FBI