

Fairfax, Virginia
September 18, 1975

I, JAMES H. GALE, being duly sworn, hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to Harold N. Bassett, who I know to be an Assistant Director of the F.B.I.

I have been advised of an allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Dallas office of the F.B.I. prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; that he left a note, threatening in nature and that the note was subsequently destroyed.

I have no knowledge of the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald visited and left a note with the Dallas office or anything concerning the destruction of said note. The first I learned of this matter was in reading about it in the recent newspaper articles.

Prior to and at the time of the assassination, I was the Assistant Director in charge of the Inspection Division of the F.B.I. I recall that a few days following the assassination and it may have been the following Monday, which I know was a holiday, I was called to the office at the instruction of Mr. Hoover. I met with Mr. Hoover and Associate Director Clyde A. Tolson in Mr. Hoover's office for approximately two (2) hours. During that period of time, he instructed me in my capacity as Assistant Director of the Inspection Division to conduct a thorough inquiry as to the Bureau's handling



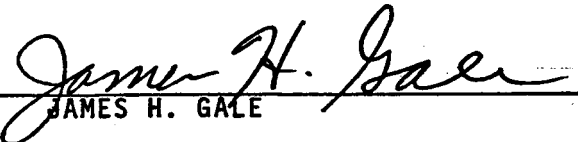
of the case. I recall Mr. Hoover stating that in his opinion, there probably would be a presidential commission which would review the Bureau's handling of this matter and he wanted to be certain that it had been properly handled. If, on the contrary, there were shortcomings and delinquencies, he instructed me to thoroughly report same and in fact, he specifically stated "leave no stone unturned and let the chips fall where they may". He also stated "this is undoubtedly the most important responsibility I have given you since you have been in the F.B.I." He reiterated this a number of times during the interview with emphasis.

As a result of these instructions, I did conduct a thorough and exhaustive inquiry and reported my findings to Mr. Hoover with appropriate recommendations.

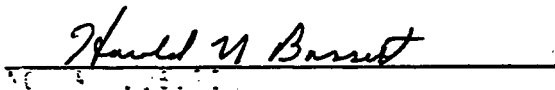
I would like to state again that at no time during this inquiry did any information come to my attention relating to an alleged visit by Oswald to the Dallas office, his leaving a note or the ultimate disposition of the note. My inquiry encompassed a thorough review of all seat of government files in this matter together with asking for enumerable explanations from the Field; however, I did not go out to the various field offices involved to go over any of their files.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JH2', located at the bottom left of the page.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT CONSISTING OF TWO
(2) PAGES AND IT IS TRUE ACCORDING TO THE FACTS.


JAMES H. GALE

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 18th day of September, 1975
at Fairfax, Virginia.


Harold H. Barrett

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