

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Rogge
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

February 11, 1964

~~SECRET~~

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
 General Counsel  
 The President's Commission  
 300 Maryland Avenue, Northeast  
 Washington, D. C.

*all unclassified  
 except  
 as indicated  
 Hym*

Classified by 2040  
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite 7/2/77  
*Hym*

Dear Mr. Rankin:

For your information the February 10, 1964, issue of the "Fort Worth Star Bulletin" contains an article by Thayer Waldo. This article alleges an "informed source" advised that a witness who could identify Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin of President Kennedy was being held in "protective custody." The witness was described as a Negro janitor employed by the Texas School Book Depository Building (TSDB) on November 23, 1963, but was not identified further.

The original story quoted the source as stating the witness worked on the sixth floor of the TSDB at the time of the assassination. Subsequent to the first edition, the source allegedly stated the witness was actually on the fifth floor when he heard the shooting, but did not see who fired the shots and had hidden behind some crates when he heard footsteps coming down the stairs after the shots were fired. According to the source, the witness identified the man coming down the stairs as Oswald.

For your information the report of SA Robert P. Gemberling dated November 30, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, discloses we interviewed three Negro employees of the TSDB; namely, Harold Dean Norman (page 26); James Jarman (page 234); and Bonnie Ray Williams (page 230), who were on the fifth floor at the time of the shooting, heard the shots, but did not see who fired them.

- 1 - 105-22555 (Lee Harvey Oswald, IS-R-Cuba)
- ① - 62-109060 (Assassination of President John F. Kennedy)
- ① - 62-109090 (The President's Commission)

62-109060-  
 NOT RECORDED

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

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SA Gemberling's report of January 7, 1964, on page 13 records the interview of Eddie Piper, the only janitor known to be employed at the TSNDS, who was on the first floor of the building at the time of the assassination. In addition, Mr. Roy S. Truly, superintendent of the TSNDS advises, Dean Norman, referred to above, is the only employee of the TSNDS who has departed since the assassination. Truly indicated Norman left the employment of the TSNDS around January 1, 1964, to take another job. Truly is of the opinion this entire story is baseless and stated if he determined the source for this story he would immediately advise this Bureau.

In an effort to identify the witness we have contacted the Dallas Office of the United States Secret Service, the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. These contacts failed to indicate the identity of the witness or reveal that any individual is being held in "protective custody" because of his knowledge of this alleged incident. The "Fort Worth Star Bulletin" declines to reveal the source of its information. If any information of this nature is developed by our investigation I will make certain you are promptly notified.

Sincerely yours,

**NOTE:** The above is based on a teletype from Dallas at 10:31 A.M., 1-10-64, captioned, "Lee Harvey Oswald, aka, IS-R-Cuba." For information Thayer Waldo has been previously interviewed in connection with our investigation of the Jack Ruby case. He reportedly was present when Ruby shot Oswald in the garage of the Dallas City Jail.

bufile 100-354991 is the main file on one Thayer Waldo who is probably identical to the above-mentioned individual. Bufile indicates Waldo is the son of Richard H. Waldo, President and Editor of the McClure Newspaper syndicate in 1936. In May, 1943, a confidential source of unknown reliability advised that Dorothy Waldo described her husband as the <sup>son of</sup> owner of the McClure syndicate. She and she was obtaining a divorce from him. On June 10, 1943, the Department of State advised Waldo had been deported from Ecuador as an undesirable alien for interfering in domestic politics.

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PM CIA