

# F.B.I. Gets Oswald Letters Sent to Pro-Castro Group

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**Fair Play for Cuba Committee Says Notes  
Show He Served It Without Sanction—  
He Wrote of 'Stirring Things Up'**

By PETER KIHSS

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has given the Federal Bureau of Investigation six letters that it said showed Lee H. Oswald had set himself up as a New Orleans representative of the committee without sanction of the national office.

In the letters, the accused assassin of President Kennedy

*Texts of the Oswald letters  
will be found on Page 73.*

wrote that he had "jumped the gun" on getting a charter as required for an affiliate of the Fair Play group, which is sympathetic to the leftist regime of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Oswald wrote that he had devised a circular of his own and added "you may think the circular is too provocative but I want it to attract attention.

even if it's the attention of the lunatic fringe."

Oswald also informed the national office in New York, that he would charge \$1 monthly dues for his New Orleans chapter. Later, he reported he had been arrested and fined \$10 after one distribution of literature had led to a street scuffle.

"I am very glad I am stirring things up and shall continue to do so," he wrote.

Vincent Theodore Lee, national director of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, said he had searched the office files last Thursday, after initially having been unable to remember Oswald, in the days after President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Lee added last night that he had "offered complete cooperation in the Oswald investi-

gation" to the F.B.I. and had given it the originals of the letters sent by Oswald. The committee official said he had no copies of any replies of his own, but assumed that he had simply replied as he would to any other inquirer.

Such a reply, Mr. Lee said, would be "a cordial, friendly letter" recommending that a would-be representative "get a post office box, keep your nose clean, not going around shooting off your mouth where you work or at home so that you lose your job, but behave yourself."

Also, Mr. Lee said, he assumed any such reply he sent would have included the organization's constitution and rules for setting up a chapter, which would need enough members to elect at least five executive officers.

Asked about the exchange of letters between Mr. Lee and Oswald, the F.B.I. said it had no comment.

Mr. Lee had been in Buffalo for a speech when President Kennedy was shot Nov. 22 and Dallas police reported the seizure of Oswald, describing the alleged slayer as a Fair Play official. The Fair Play headquarters at 799 Broadway was put under the guard of the New York City police that evening.

Both at first and again last night, Mr. Lee expressed shock and deplored "the dastardly assassination" of President Kennedy. He also deplored last night the subsequent murder of Oswald.

"Whether Oswald was guilty or innocent," Mr. Lee said, "we certainly are not responsible for his completely independent action. Any contact with him we had was initiated by him, and showed he acted completely on his own and did not follow any of our recommended courses of action.

"I believe that after he had done so much carrying on on his own and going in his own direction, we ceased involving ourselves with such a man in any way because we didn't want to get involved with someone who would break every rule and regulation we ever had. This is what we assume."

The letters Mr. Lee made available were hand-written, often with misspellings. They started with an undated letter, apparently written late last

April, in which Oswald wrote from Dallas.

In his letter, Oswald said he was unemployed but did not like to ask for "something for nothing." He said he recently had passed out committee literature and had dispensed all his pamphlets in 40 minutes.

"I was cursed as well as praised by some," he wrote. He asked for 40 or 50 more of the "fine basic pamphlets—14."

Mr. Lee said he had no idea what the numeral "14" meant. He himself, he said, had been on a West Coast tour at the time, but evidently someone in the national office sent Oswald 50 or more items, according to a notation "sent 4/19/63."

A second letter from Oswald, dated May 26, reported he had moved to New Orleans and asked "formal membership in your organization."

Oswald said he had been thinking about renting a \$30-a-month office at his own expense to form a Fair Play branch, and would like information on buying pamphlets, applications and a picture of Premier Castro for framing, as "a welcome touch."

"Of course I work and could not supervise the office at all times but I'm sure I could get some volunteers to do it," Oswald wrote.

"I am not saying this project would be a roaring success, but I am willing to try," he added.

## Letter Directed to Lee

While Oswald's first two letters were addressed to "Dear Sirs," the third in the series was directed to "Dear Mr. Lee." Apparently written sometime in July, this said Oswald hoped Mr. Lee "won't be too disapproving of my innovations."

In this, Oswald said he had "jumped the gun on the charter business" and had printed 2,000 "provocative" circulars along with a membership blank of his own devising. Mr. Lee said last night that Oswald had never had authority to do so.

Oswald wrote that he would charge \$1 a month dues, but offered to forward \$5 as a national dues rate to the national office for every New Orleans member who might pay five months' dues in any year.

On Aug. 1, a fourth letter from Oswald reported he had rented an office, which was "closed three days later" on a landlord's claim that it had to be remodeled.

Thereafter, Oswald wrote, he had "worked out of a post office box and by using street demonstrations and some circular work have substained a great deal of interest, but no new members."

A street demonstration, Os-

wald reported, had led to an attack by some anti-Castro Cuban exiles and to his being "officially cautioned by police."

"This incident robbed me of what support I had leaving me alone," Oswald said.

His fifth letter, dated Aug. 12, reported that the incident had resulted in his being fined \$10. But, he said, it got considerable press and television coverage, and "I am sure it will be to the good of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee."

In the sixth letter, dated Aug. 17, Oswald reported that Bill Stuckey, New Orleans television commentator, had made a tape telecast that caused Oswald to be flooded with calls and invitations to debate.

"You can, I think, be happy with the developing situation here in New Orleans," Oswald wrote in this, the last letter in the series, Mr. Lee reported.

In the file, Mr. Lee said, were also three postal notices, including one dated Nov. 1, which shifted Oswald's address from 4907 Magazine Street and Post Office Box 30061, both in New Orleans, to Post Office Box 6225, Dallas, Tex.

Mr. Lee said he had been ill for about a week, but had been visited by F.B.I. agents last Tuesday and had offered to search his office files as soon as he could get up from his sickbed. A four-hour search on Thursday turned up the Oswald letters, he said, and he gave the originals to the F.B.I. Friday afternoon. The F.B.I., he said, paid for copies he could keep.