

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington
January 8, 1964

JAN 7 5 59 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
F B I

File - FBI - Oswald + S.I.

Mr. M. M. "Pat" Murphree
Murphree Photographers
8109 South Marsalis
Dallas, Texas 75218

Dear Mr. Murphree:

I deeply appreciate the interest which prompted your letter of December 17th, with enclosure, and want to thank you for your expression of confidence, as well as your thoughtful prayers.

Your concern for the reputation of Texas and for the police authorities in Dallas is certainly understandable and is shared by me. Because of my desire that all the facts be known, I have appointed a Presidential Commission to look into all aspects of the tragic events in Dallas.

Handwritten notes on right margin:
D.W. [unclear]
G. [unclear]
C. [unclear]

With regard to the actions of the FBI and the Secret Service in Dallas, they have specific responsibilities defined by Federal statutes and Executive Orders. They cannot lawfully exceed the authority granted them. For this reason these agencies could not "take over" from the Dallas Police Department which was handling a criminal matter within its jurisdiction. Under existing legislation neither of these Federal agencies had lawful authority to have custody of or to participate in guarding and transporting Lee Harvey Oswald.

In accordance with my instructions, the FBI is thoroughly investigating and has submitted its initial report to the Presidential Commission. The FBI has continually promptly advised the Secret Service of all information in its possession indicating a potential danger to the President of the United States or his family. The data the FBI had prior to November 22nd regarding Oswald gave absolutely no clue that he was a potential assassin.

Handwritten note on right margin:
Searched

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent with cover memo)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont (sent with cover memo)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (sent with cover memo)

NOTE: See Morrell to DeLoach memo of 1-7-64 captioned "Mr. M. M. "Pat" Murphree, Dallas, Texas, Assassination of the President"
GEM:lch

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

JAN 13 1964

Handwritten signature: [unclear]

JAN 16 1964

Mr. M. A. "Pat" Murphy

Every resource is being used to resolve all possible ramifications relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of Oswald. I have instructed the Commission to submit its findings as promptly as possible. When it has completed its study of all available information, I will make the results public and let the facts speak for themselves.

It was very thoughtful of you to consider sending me a plan for the future advancement of the Democratic Party and I look forward to receiving it.

Sincerely yours,

(For President Johnson's Signature)