

Mr. David G. Flinders, Chief
FOIA/PA Branch
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20535

12/8/79

Dear Mr. Flinders,

Thank you for your 12/4/79 response to my 10/19/79 letter to the Department in which I stated that the originals of the statements taken from employees of the Texas School Book Depository Building were not with the retyped copies in the FBIHQ JFK assassination file.

It now appears that the reason I could not find them in the HQ records is because the originals never reached FBIHQ.

You were kind enough to refer me to 100-10461-1A232. Because of the considerable amount of work I have done to prepare the records for transfer to the University locating 1A232 was not the problem it might have been, coming from 1a through 6 being bound in a single very large Section or volume in which even the cover pages are internal.

Although initial examination of this fat volume would lead one to believe that it consists of what the Warren Commission published, these statements are there, mixed in after the transcripts of the police radio log and some Parkland Hospital records.

The original of Mrs. Arnold's statement confirms what she told a reporter I directed to her, that the statement was written for her by the FBI agent, who limited it to what he wanted included and then made an error in the time at which she left the building. She said it was at 12:25 p.m., which is five minutes before the President was killed. But the agent wrote 12:25 a.m., which is 12 hours earlier. The error is interesting. It also is not the only error in time the FBI made. In an earlier interview no notes relating to which I have seen the FBI placed it at 12:15 p.m.

The former Mrs. Arnold knew Oswald. She told the FBI what is not in the statement written out for her to sign, that as she left the building she saw Oswald on the first floor. It happens that the FBI wanted Oswald to be on the sixth floor at that time and from its own reconstruction of the time required to reassemble the rifle it believes was disassembled busily engaged in reassembling it.

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Note: Did Arnold say she saw him on 2nd floor at 12:25 or on 1st floor

any discomfort that might have come from a witness who knew Oswald and saw him on the first floor at a time that precluded his being the sixth floor assassin was minimized by timing it 10 minutes too early. In this way the first report did minimize any discomfort.

Further mitigation comes from the omission of what is in the much later report, the names of five others who were with Mrs. Arnold. When Mrs. Arnold signed this later record the agent ~~xxx~~ omitted the part about her just leaving the building and seeing Oswald. Instead he wrote in for her to sign that "I did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Kennedy was shot."

This, of course, was five minutes after Mrs. Arnold told the FBI she had seen Oswald on the first floor.

I have no knowledge and no reason to believe that anyone in the FBI put these two records together and asked any of those with Mrs. Arnold for confirmation of her statement that she saw Oswald at a time that eliminated him as the assassin. However, if I am wrong in this I most assuredly would appreciate being referred to any such records, whether they confirm or dispute what Mrs. Arnold actually told the FBI.

Thanks for the help. When a witness gives what would appear to be a pretty farout statement, in this case that the FBI would misdate what she said by a half day, it is good to be able to confirm that it was not at all farout.

Mr. David G. Flanders, Chief
FOIA/PA Branch
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20535

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