

FBI Disciplined 17 in JFK Case

Washington

The FBI secretly disciplined 17 supervisors and inspectors shortly after John F. Kennedy's assassination for having failed to list Lee Harvey Oswald as a national security risk, a former FBI inspector testified yesterday.

Retired Inspector James H. Gale told the House assassinations committee he had been ordered by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover the day after Kennedy's death to look into how the agency had fulfilled its responsibilities regarding Oswald.

Hoover expected a special commission would be set up to investigate the assassination and wanted his agency to be ready. The Warren Commission, established a few days later, concluded that the FBI had not satisfactorily coordinated its information about Oswald with the Secret Service.

The commission was not told of Hoover's internal investigation and disciplinary action.

Gale testified he studied the

reports of all field agents and their supervisors responsible for keeping track of Oswald's movements after he returned from the Soviet Union in 1962 and found they had failed to keep up with the ex-defector's movements and activities.

Gale specifically found that, while agents periodically checked on Oswald, they failed to do so promptly after the CIA reported he had visited the Soviet embassy in Mexico City in September, 1963, or when he moved from New Orleans to Dallas in October of that year.

Oswald, Gale said, should have been put on the agency's "security index," which contained the names of persons deemed potentially dangerous in the event of a national emergency.

He recommended disciplinary action and Hoover agreed, he said. The 17 were disciplined although all of them stated they did not consider Oswald in the "security index" category. None of the men was dismissed but notations were made on their records.