

PT/L - Mr. Johnson
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June 25, 1964

L - Mr. Thomas Ehrlich

PTT - Frances G. Knight

Passport office
State Dept.
D.C.

PASSPORT OFFICE

JUN 25 1964

Transcript of Testimony before Warren Commission

PT/L

Lee Harvey Oswald

I am returning herewith the transcript of my testimony before the Warren Commission on the Oswald case. You will note that I have made some changes to make the testimony read smoother since our discussion was understood, but in the case of written testimony, the references should be clear.

At the conclusion of the testimony, you will recall that the Commission's Counsel, Mr. Coleman, as well as the Members of the Commission assured me that I could furnish a supplemental statement or any documentation which I felt would be of interest to them.

As you probably know, Mr. William J. Crockett at the instance of Mr. Abba P. Schwartz, ordered the Office of Security to conduct a survey of the Passport Office procedures and handling of the look-out file, particularly as these relate to the Oswald case. I was first informed of this project on Monday afternoon, June 22.

I orally informed Mr. Charles Mace, acting for Mr. Schwartz, that we had been very forthright with the Commission and had furnished detailed information on our handling of the Oswald citizenship determination, repatriation and issuance of a passport. I pointed out that I was astounded that SI had not made an investigation or check on the "temporary" employees which we are forced to use in the look-out file and other security areas of the Passport Office. In 1963, the Passport Office was on the ropes due to the drastic cut in personnel and the Department's failure to provide us with the employees we needed to process applications during the busy season. As far as I know, and this was confirmed on Monday by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, no re-check has been made on the temporary employees who had access to the look-out file during the period Oswald was applying for a passport.

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This may or may not be considered a serious oversight, however, insofar as this investigation ordered by Mr. Crockett is directed at the Passport Office, I would like to reserve judgment as to whether or not the survey report should be transmitted to the Commission and if it is, whether or not I should file a supplemental statement on it.

I was informed that the SY investigation was held up until the Warren Commission completed its hearings. It seems to me that if there is any significant finding in the SY report, it should be part of the Department's contribution to the Commission. Depending on the content of the SY report, I would expect the courtesy of being informed.

I defer to your judgment as to whether the Commission should now be advised of the new investigation

Attachment:

Transcript of Testimony.

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