

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 31, 1963

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Mrs. LAURA LAYFIELD advised she resides at 1810 Moser; her telephone number at home is TA. 7-7877. She said she has been employed at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Dallas, Texas for about 14 or 15 months and is presently the receptionist and hostess at the Court Club in the hotel. She said that she recalled on October 30, 1963, she was the receptionist in the Personnel Department of the hotel and during the period 12:30 - 1:30 P.M. on that date, she was alone in the Personnel Office when three persons came in about the same time. One person was JAMES FREDERICK MURPHY whom she identified by viewing a photograph of MURPHY; another person she thought was possibly LEE HARVEY OSWALD; and she was unable to identify the third person. She said this third person did not ask for or complete an application.

Upon examining the New Orleans Police Photo No. 112723 dated August 9, 1963 of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, she said this photograph appeared to be of a much larger person than the applicant she had previously thought might have been OSWALD, and on later reflection she said she believed the applicant whom she had believed to be OSWALD, was in his 30's and he bore a strong resemblance to her step-brother. She said she recalled this applicant took the application form after it was completed and tore it up in her presence and she reiterated the fact as previously told in an interview with SA JAMES E. GARRIS, that she had written the words "nasty - ill-tempered" on this application before the person took it and tore it up. She said she recalled that the applicant gave a "Fort Worth address, spoke Russian, and had a week-old baby".

Mrs. LAYFIELD said she recalled that the three men did not talk to each other during the time they were in the Personnel Office with her, and she said it is possible that the application and card which she made up for this person might have been pulled with the six months old records and destroyed inadvertently. She said she recalled that she had mentioned the unusual behavior of this applicant to a fellow employee, MARGARET "PEGGY" SMITH, after the three men left the Personnel Office and she said she thought she had remarked to

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PEGGY that this applicant was a "nasty human being". She also said that Mrs. SMITH was quite busy when she made this remark to her, and it is possible that she could have forgotten all about it.

Mrs. LAYFIELD said that Mrs. SMITH was never up in the front office during the period of time the three men were in the Personnel Office, and she recalled that these three men all left the office about the same time. She said she told them "We have no openings" (she paused for a moment or so) and then remarked "except for a cafeteria helper". She said the applicant knew that he could not get a job so she felt sure that was his reason for not returning, and then she probably tore up the application even though she was not supposed to according to the rules of the hotel. She said it was hard to definitely recall each individual that she interviewed when she was working as a receptionist in the Personnel Office, due to the fact that some 300 to 400 applications are turned in each month to that office and it was easy to "mix up the facts and not get them all straight".

Mrs. LAYFIELD said she had known JACK RUBY for about four years but had never worked for him and she knew of no association between RUBY and OSWALD.

She again looked at the New Orleans Police Photo of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and said it was definitely not the picture of the person who made application for a position as a bell man and said that he spoke Russian before he got mad and left the office.