

Man's JFK 'bombs' reportedly instill fear

SUNDAY, SEP 10 1978

By EARL GOIZ
The Dallas Morning News, 1978

The FBI agent who monitored Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy told The News the House Assassinations Committee fears he will "drop bombs" if called to testify publicly.

"If they are going to try and contain this (assassination probe) like the Church (Senate Intelligence) committee and the Warren Commission, they don't want me up there," James P. Hosty Jr. said.

Hosty declined to detail his information but ruled out anything about the threatening note Oswald, Kennedy's accused slayer, delivered to the Dallas FBI office after Hosty talked with Oswald's wife three weeks before the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.



While FBI agent Hosty says panel doesn't want his testimony, the assassination committee relies on scientific evidence.

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"I'm sure... they know everything... the whole story."

Hosty said, however, committee investigators last month gave him the impression they were "all done with the investigation and they

were writing the report (due in December) — that they were not opening any new grounds any more."

(see) were trying to avoid me," Hosty, who is nearing retirement, said. "In fact, they almost didn't call me. I had to ask why I wasn't called (to testify in private) before they would call me."

at the Sept. 20 hearing on the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice. "I have about 30 hours of testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee which they had access to, and they (members of the House Assassinations Committee) built on that 30 hours with about 3 1/2 more (Aug. 25)," he said.

Committee spokesmen could not be reached for comment, but a committee source scoffed at Hosty's claim he had to ask to give a deposition.

Hosty has been the butt of at least three post-assassination revelations. See AGENT on Page 11A.

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that have put him in the FBI doghouse. The first occurred only hours after the assassination. Jack Revill, then a Dallas police detective, sent a memo to Police Chief Jesse Curry quoting Hosty as telling Revill the FBI knew Oswald was "capable" of killing Kennedy before he allegedly did.

Curry, repeating information he learned from the memo, incurred the wrath of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover the day after the assassination when he disclosed the FBI knew, but did not inform Dallas police, that Oswald was working in a building on the presidential motorcade route.

Hoover denied Hosty made the statements to Revill but suspended Hosty for 30 days without pay and reassigned him to Kansas City.

Hosty's name, auto license and telephone number were in Oswald's personal notebook when he was arrested, but the FBI did not disclose that to the Warren Commission in the first report on the notebook. It was not until Feb. 11, 1964, after the media picked up the story, that Hosty's entry in the notebook was reported to the commission in a "supplemental" FBI report.

The latest FBI-Hosty revelation was revealed in 1975. It was reported that Oswald left a threatening note at the Dallas FBI office about two weeks before the assassination.

The note, Hosty said, warned Oswald "would take action against the FBI... if I did not stop talking to his wife." Hosty said J. Gordon Shanklin, spe-

cial agent in charge in Dallas, ordered him to destroy the note two days after the assassination and only hours after Oswald was shot fatally by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby.

Shanklin, now retired, has denied knowing about the note.

It only has been revealed within the last year that Shanklin was disciplined along with Hosty and 15 other FBI agents and officials for "investigative deficiencies" in not reporting Oswald as a security risk.

Among those disciplined by Hoover in 1965 were William Sullivan, assistant FBI director in charge of domestic intelligence, and Shannon's predecessor, Curtis Linnam.

In a Dec. 10, 1963, internal memo that recommended the 17 men be disciplined, Hosty was quoted as saying his Dallas office did not deem it "advisable" to interview Mrs. Oswald in March 1963 "because they developed information that Oswald was drinking to excess and beat up wife on public occasions."

The memo quoted Hosty as saying his office "allowed a 60-day cooling-off period" and then couldn't locate Oswald until after he moved to New Orleans later that spring.

Hoover scribbled "certainly is sufficient excuse" to use the cooling-off period as Hosty's reason for not interviewing Mrs. Oswald.

was verified Nov. 1, 1963, Gale said Hosty wanted to avoid having Mrs. Oswald "gain the impression she was being harassed or hounded because of her immigrant status (Russian) in order that the interview when conducted might be as productive as possible."

Hosty and Mrs. Oswald, however, later testified before the Warren Commission that Hosty did talk to Mrs. Oswald Nov. 1. This talk led to the threatening note by Oswald about one week later.

Gale wrote, "This entire facet of the investigation (was) mishandled." He said Mrs. Oswald should have been interviewed and the "best time to get information from her would be after she was beaten up by her husband as it is felt she would be far more likely to cooperate when angry at Oswald than otherwise."

"This certainly makes sense," Hoover scribbled under Gale's remarks. The Gale memo was not made public

until January when the FBI released about 40,000 pages of previously classified assassination documents.

FBI Assistant Director C. D. DeLoach, in an addendum to the memo Dec. 10, 1963, suggested the disciplinary action against the 17 FBI personnel "be held in abeyance until the findings" of the Warren Commission were made public.

DeLoach recommended holding off because a "leak" to the news media "would be assumed as a direct admission that we are responsible for negligence which might have resulted in the assassination of the president."

Although Chief Justice Earl Warren had indicated he planned to issue no subpoenas, DeLoach wrote, "There is, however, the possibility that the public will learn of disciplinary action being taken against our personnel and, therefore, start a bad, unjustifiable reaction."

Hoover wrote "I do not concur" under DeLoach's addendum.