

Oswald indicated plans to quit job at depository

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A letter from Lee Harvey Oswald to the Internal Revenue Service in 1963 indicated Oswald planned to quit his job at the Texas School Book Depository several weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy.

Oswald stated in the undated letter—never cited by the Warren Commission—that he had “worked only six months in the fiscal year of 1963.”

The short note was written after Oct. 20, 1963, because it notes he then had two children and thus four dependents for tax purposes. His second child, a daughter, was born Oct. 20.

The date of the letter can be further pinpointed to Nov. 1, 1963, because by then Oswald had accumulated exactly six months of work in 1963. The six months would include jobs at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall in Dallas from Jan. 1 to April 6, at Reilly Coffee Co. in New Orleans from May 9 to July 19 and at the Texas School Book Depository from Oct. 16 to about Nov. 1 when the letter was apparently written.

ALTHOUGH Oswald's letter referred to having worked only six months in fiscal year 1963, he previously had confused a fiscal year with a calendar year. For example, he referred to “fiscal 1962” in a letter to the IRS seeking a refund for income taxes withheld on his 1962 earnings.

The 1963 letter to the IRS went relatively unnoticed after it publicly surfaced in 1966. It was placed in the National Archives as “FBI Exhibit 274” in late 1965 by then U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark who officially designated it federal property as part of the assassination investigation.

Some of the words in the first part of the letter, where Oswald apparently discusses the birth of his daughter, are blurred beyond recognition as though someone had performed tests on the script or ink.

Oswald, of course, didn't quit work early in November, 1963. He was employed as an order filler at the Texas School Book Depository up to the day of the assassination Nov. 22. The Warren Commission accused him of assassinating Kennedy by shooting a rifle from a sixth floor window of the depository building.

Why then did he write the IRS a letter saying he was through working for 1963? The Warren Commission gave no indication it probed for an explanation of the strange letter, or even knew it existed.

About the time of the letter Oswald

was unusually active and was asserting himself more.

HIS WIFE, Marina, told the Warren Commission Oswald was looking into the possibility of another job during the first week in November, but she apparently didn't know much about it.

Mrs. Oswald testified before the Warren Commission that her husband failed Nov. 8 to pay her a visit, as scheduled, at the Irving home where she and her children were living.

Oswald told his wife he didn't show up because “there was another job open, more interesting work . . . related to photography,” according to Mrs. Oswald's testimony.

Several days later, Nov. 2, when Oswald sent \$2 to New York City to become a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, he listed his occupation as “photographer,” although it was not.

(Oswald had applied for a photography job at a Dallas printing plant Oct. 4 right after he returned from Mexico City, but he was not hired. The president of a photographic firm where he had worked earlier in the year, Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, refused to recommend him, saying he was “kinda peculiar sometimes” and “may be a damn Communist.”)

On the same day he may have written the IRS letter, Nov. 1, Oswald rented post office box 6225 at the Terminal Annex here.

Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby, Oswald's subsequent slayer, on Nov. 7 rented post office box 5475 only a few feet from Oswald's.

Also on Nov. 1, Oswald was warned by FBI agent James P. Hosty that if he “engaged in Fair Play for Cuba Committee activities in Texas the FBI will again take an ‘interest’ in me,” according to a letter Oswald wrote the Soviet

Embassy in Washington.

The Nov. 9 letter to the Soviet Embassy also mentioned Oswald's visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City a month earlier and asked for word of “the arrival of our (Oswald and his wife) Soviet entrance visas as soon as they come.”

Earlier that week, possibly Nov. 8, Oswald went to FBI offices in Dallas and left a threatening note which the FBI denied receiving until 1975.

THE “DEAR MR. HUNT” letter three handwriting experts have authenticated as written and signed by Oswald also was dated Nov. 8.

Recently the subject of an FBI investigation after that agency obtained a copy from the IRS, the letter asked the unidentified Mr. Hunt for “information concerning my position . . . I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else.”

The Warren Commission apparently didn't know of the Hunt letter, either.

When Oswald showed up Nov. 9 to visit his wife at Mrs. Ruth Paine's house in Irving, Mrs. Paine drove him to a state office to apply for a driver's license but found it closed.

As they drove back to Irving, Mrs. Paine told the Warren Commission Oswald “was as gay as I have ever seen him . . . He sang, he joked, he made puns, or he made up songs mutilating the Russian language, which tickled and pained Marina, both at once.”

That same day, Nov. 9, salesmen at the Downtown Lincoln-Mercury showroom said a man they believed was Oswald test drove a new \$3,500 car recklessly down the expressway and said he would be back with the money in two or three weeks.

The Warren Commission discounted this story because Oswald supposedly did not know how to drive. Mrs. Paine also doubted the story because Oswald “was not out of my sight for any length of time” Nov. 9.

Oswald was acting as though he were embarking on a new and happier life style in early November, but it was not to be.

He stayed with his menial job at the Texas School Book Depository, from which he was accused of killing Kennedy and wounding Gov. John Connally.

The man who rented a post office box a few feet from Oswald's, Jack Ruby, then proceeded to gun down the accused assassin two days later in the basement of the Dallas police station.