

Date 12/10/63

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SAMUEL B. BALLEEN, Chairman of the Board of High Plains Natural Gas Company and Electrical Log Service, Inc., 1717 Southland Center, Dallas, advised he had been previously interviewed on November 29-30, 1963, by RONNIE DUGGER, who is editor of the "Texas Observer", Austin, Texas, and who indicated he was also a reporter for the "Washington Post" newspaper. Mr. BALLEEN advised that the article which appeared in the "Washington Post" on December 1, 1963, wherein BALLEEN was quoted concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD was correct. He states he first met LEE HARVEY OSWALD in December, 1962 or January, 1963, at the home of GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT in Dallas, Texas, although Mr. BALLEEN advised he does not recall talking to OSWALD on this occasion.

Approximately ten days later Mr. BALLEEN received a telephone call from DE MOHRENSCHILDT who stated that he was trying to help OSWALD and wanted to know if BALLEEN would talk to OSWALD and attempt to obtain a job for him. Mr. BALLEEN stated that he on this occasion talked to OSWALD for approximately 1½ hours.

BALLEEN advised that OSWALD appeared to be intelligent and extremely independent. OSWALD told him that he had been in Russia and his reason for going to Russia was to find out "what Russia was like". OSWALD said that "Russia was boring."

OSWALD advised BALLEEN that he received training in photography in Russia and it was BALLEEN's recollection that OSWALD had been employed by a newspaper in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During the interview OSWALD kept repeating "don't worry about me. I don't want any charity." BALLEEN advised that he got the impression OSWALD was too independent and he therefore did not attempt to obtain employment for him. BALLEEN informed that he was unaware OSWALD had Marxist leanings, and that during the conversation OSWALD was critical of Russia. Upon termination of the interview OSWALD said he was going to the YMCA.

on 12/10/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461
 by Special Agents JOHN THOMAS KESLER and JTC Date dictated 12/10/63
VM VERNON MITCHEM:jj

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BALLEN advised DE MOHRENSCHILDT had approached his, BALLEN's, wife and other people, whose names he did not know, to have OSWALD and his wife, MARINA, out socially. Mr. and Mrs. DE MOHRENSCHILDT went out of their way to befriend the OSWALDS. Mr. BALLEN advised that he does not know how the OSWALDS became acquainted with the DE MOHRENSCHILDTs but he believes it was possibly through the Russian community in Dallas.

Mr. BALLEN advised that DE MOHRENSCHILDT is reportedly residing in Haiti and can be contacted through the U. S. Embassy there. Mr. BALLEN is of the opinion DE MOHRENSCHILDT is a "beatnik". He said DE MOHRENSCHILDT, who is a geologist, became a "beatnik" after the death of his son. DE MOHRENSCHILDT prior to leaving Dallas had characterized OSWALD as either a "genius or a nut".

Mr. BALLEN informed that DE MOHRENSCHILDT's son-in-law, "RAGS" KEARTON, is reportedly residing in Anchorage, Alaska, and was exposed to OSWALD for about two weeks prior to leaving Dallas for Anchorage in January, 1963. KEARTON prior to leaving Dallas stated he had seen enough of OSWALD, that OSWALD was a "nut".

BALLEN states that he was impressed by OSWALD and OSWALD appeared to be very independent and a "critical thinker". Mr. BALLEN reiterated that he had no idea OSWALD had Marxist leanings.