

Dallas, Texas
September 2, 1975

I, JAMES W. ANDERTON, being duly sworn, hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to Inspector J. ALLISON CONLEY and Special Agent in Charge PHILIP A. MC NIFF, both of whom have identified themselves to me as being employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I have been advised that an allegation has been made that LEE HARVEY OSWALD delivered a letter to the Dallas Office prior to the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY and have been questioned concerning this incident. The extent of my knowledge is as follows:

On November 22, 1963, I was assigned as a Special Agent in the Dallas Office, having been assigned to this office since August, 1953. I have been continuously assigned to the Dallas Office since the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and the first knowledge I received concerning a note LEE HARVEY OSWALD directed to SA JAMES P. HOSTY occurred in the general time frame of 1969 to 1970. Sometime late in the afternoon, probably near the close of business hours at 5:00 PM, while in the squad room of the Dallas Office, at my desk, I overheard SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING make some remark about the *guy*

62-109060-7314XL Part 1

additional leads he had received concerning the KENNEDY assassination. At this time, Agent GEMBERLING was preparing to leave the office for the day and to the best of my recollection, he was planning to catch an early bus that evening. As Agent GEMBERLING was departing, I overheard MRS. NANNIE LEE FENNER make a remark concerning either a note or a letter of a threatening nature which had been directed to SA HOSTY from LEE HARVEY OSWALD some time prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY. MRS. FENNER did not indicate that this was her firsthand knowledge but remarked in unrecalled words that this note or letter had been delivered to SA HOSTY, who took it in to the SAC (J. GORDON SHANKLIN). MRS. FENNER continued that all she knew was that the note was destroyed. MRS. FENNER did not elaborate on these remarks at this time.

At the time of the above incident, I recall that present were several other Agents and I can only specifically recall SAs VINCENT E. DRAIN, ALFRED D. NEELEY (now retired) and URAL E. HORTON, JR. (now retired). After MRS. FENNER's comment about OSWALD and a note, she departed the area in preparation for departing the office and among the Agents who were present in the immediate vicinity, no further conversation was engaged in concerning her remarks *gt*

To reiterate, MRS. FENNER's comments concerning OSWALD and a note were the first I had ever heard of this information and my immediate reaction was that this was possibly rumor or office gossip. I had this reaction because in the past, especially concerning health and medical matters, MRS. FENNER has a tendency to exaggerate. In other words, I did not put 100 percent credence in her remarks. Because of this feeling on my part, I did not pursue the remarks any further and I actually dismissed the incident from my mind at that time.

In the interim since the above incident wherein MRS. FENNER mentioned OSWALD's note to SA HOSTY, I heard no further discussion of this subject matter until approximately two or three years ago, at which time there was a discussion concerning the renewal of investigative leads in the KENNEDY assassination by several Agents in the Dallas Office. This discussion arose to the best of my recollection from newspaper articles regarding inquiries being made by certain individuals at New Orleans, Louisiana, concerning the KENNEDY assassination. Sometime during this discussion, I overheard MRS. FENNER make a remark such as "... and the letter" or words to that effect, at which time she laughed and departed with no further elaboration. After MRS. FENNER's departure, an informal discussion was continued concerning only the reinstatement of the KENNEDY assassination *gm*

case but no discussion or observations were furnished by the Agents present regarding MRS. FENNER's above remark.

The next information I received concerning the note was on Sunday, August 31, 1975. I attended the 9:30 AM service at the Highland Park United Methodist Church, and after the service while having coffee in the church lounge ~~with~~ SA ROBERT P. GEMBERLING, who was also in attendance, approached me and asked if I had seen that morning's Dallas Times Herald and its article concerning the OSWALD case. I replied that I had not done so and SA GEMBERLING told me that I should read it as soon as I got home. Inasmuch as there were numerous persons in the church lounge, no further discussion was held between SA GEMBERLING and myself regarding the above article.

Immediately upon returning home, I read an article in that date's Dallas Times Herald, entitled "Oswald Threat", written by TOM JOHNSON. My reaction to this article was that it was probably one of the worst items of news to be printed against the Bureau and I fully realized at the time the serious nature of this matter. After reading this article several times, I finally recalled that the information set forth in the newspaper article tied in with the remarks made by MRS. FENNER and that there apparently must have been some validity to her comments. *ju*

The information set forth above constitutes my complete knowledge of all information pertaining to the OSWALD visit to the Dallas Office and a communication he delivered for SA HOSTY. I categorically deny any other knowledge of this matter.

I have read each of the 5 pages of this affidavit and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

James W. Ardenter

Sworn to and subscribed before me on September 2, 1975,
at Dallas, Texas.

Witnesses:

J. Allison Conley
Philip A. McNeely