

2/9/71

Dear Paul,

Long time no hear.

Enclosed are some clippings of interest to a friend with whom I work.

I don't know whether you have any knowledge of this or whether, if you do and it is or might be relevant, it would be of a nature you would regard as confidential. If not, let me ask a few questions.

Could Lowery have been Hosty's boy?

Is there a remote possibility that Oswald served or was intended to serve in similar capacity for the Dallas police?

Have you any reason to believe he was once doing this for the FBI and Hosty's job was to heat him up again?

Shoe salesman in Oak Cliff is suggestive, isn't it?

The remuneration is approximately what Sweatt attributed to Oswald. Did he ever tell you this story?

That GI Forum involved a man who was badly abused and innocent, one Joe Molina. Lowery apparently was one of the Bureau's informants on that. Their interest baffles me.

Perhaps other questions will suggest themselves to you. Hope you have time to answer and that everything is going well.

Best,

NOTES ON CLIPPINGS RELATING TO FBI INFORMANT BILL LOWERY (FROM CD 320)

This is not meant to be a complete analysis, just random observations. The two ~~xx~~ stories in question are (1) Dallas Times-Herald, 9/26/63, page A-21; (2) Morning News, 9/27/63, page 5.

Odd: I don't recall ~~xxxx~~ seeing anything about this episode elsewhere. Perhaps it is all irrelevant to the assassination - probably is - but it may be relevant in terms of FBI practices and motives with regard to the possible recruiting of LHO. Perhaps some WC staff might have found this food for thought; naturally it is not something the FBI would volunteer.

Presumably after Lowery's cover was blown (9/23/63), the FBI would have to take steps to replace him.

Wonder if Hosty was the agent working with Lowery?

This reminds me of an idea I got after reading Bonner's book. It does seem that many of the reports about LHO and the FBI came from Dallas authorities. (*) If he was really working primarily for the locals, they would have reason for exposing his FBI links, as a hold over the FBI - a warning that the Feds should not dig for LHO-DPD links, at the risk of having their ~~x own~~ funny stuff exposed. *(Hudkins, Revill)

Going through article (1): Real commies in Dallas! Far out!

Just to be sure, we should check out exactly where Lowery was an "Oak Cliff shoe salesman."

Someone should check the published testimony, if any, or the NYT index on Lowery.

Lowery's visit to the FBI office reminds me of LHO's alleged similar visit in Dallas - the one Marina says she thinks didn't happen.

Article (2): \$2600 a year is quite close to the \$200 per month associated with LHO.

One possibility is that Hudkins/Sweatt were associating correct and relatively public information about Lowery - who must have been pretty widely talked about in law-enforcement circles - with Oswald.

Wonder ~~xxx~~ if the Dallas commies included ~~xxx~~ any of LHO's associates?

Note that the GI Forum is mentioned. This is Molina's group. CD 1426 is a fairly large report on Molina; according to my notes, some of the information came from Lowery. (I have pages 4 and 6; 5 and 7 are still withheld; I should order the other pages.)

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Is it just coincidence that two of the few subversives in Dallas were working at the TSBD?

The Unitarian church in San Antonio was suspect. Wonder about the Quakers in Dallas.

The FBI was evidently interested in integrationist groups, even if the DPD pretended to the WC not to be.

It is not clear to me why the FBI ~~xxx~~ emphasized that they were checking on individuals, not organizations like the GI forum. Was Molina, for example, really important enough for individual attention? Yet Oswald was not!!!

Did Newman's book mention this business? If LHO were an authentic commie, this disclosure may well have got him upset with the government.

Comments welcomed.

Cc: Files, HJ, JMS (w/encl.)

PTM
A-21
9-26-63

Fake Red Tells Of Real Ones Operating Here

By JIM LEMMER
Staff Writer

Bill Lowery was a "fake" Communist. But there are others in Dallas, members of the same cell, who are real.

These real ones have dominated Mr. Lowery's life for the past 18 years as he secretly fed information on their activities—and his—to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

For Mr. Lowery, a soft-spoken Oak Cliff shoe salesman with a wife and two children, was an undercover counter agent for the FBI while seemingly a loyal Communist to his comrades.

He attended the local cell meetings in Dallas, was a delegate to state meetings, collected and paid dues into the party, actively applauded their programs — a perfect member, for all appearances.

Speaking of his experience in a Times Herald interview Thursday, the 47-year-old New Jersey native had to hold some information back.

"If I would say something now that could in any way impair the further prosecution of the Communists, it would ruin everything I have worked on for 18 years," he said.

He acknowledged, for instance, that there is a Communist group in Dallas.

"We shied away from using words like 'cell' and 'comrade,' because it was not good to get into the habit," he said. Mr. Lowery said he could not say how many are in the Dallas cell.

Public exposure of his undercover activities came earlier this week when he testified at a Justice Department hearing in Washington. There will be more hearings, more testimony, he is sure.

He speaks generally of the Communist Party's activities in Texas.

The state meetings, which he attended as a Dallas delegate, were usually held in private homes or "cut-of-the-way hotels," he said. Dallas hosted a few of these meetings, he said.

"The primary things done at these state meetings were reports given by the delegates from each

of the major cities," Mr. Lowery continued.

Recruitment was always on the agenda of every meeting he attended — including local cell meetings here.

"They are extremely interested in recruitment of new members," he said, but quickly added that he could not go into any specific methods used.

He said that joining the party in the first place was his own idea, conceived after he had done some reading in the public library and elsewhere.

"I became convinced that the Communists were a menace to our country," Mr. Lowery said, "and wondered what I could do about it."

The opportunity presented itself some months later, in 1945, when an acquaintance talked to him about communism. Mr. Lowery was living in San Antonio at the time.

"I got a letter in the mail asking me to join an organization," he said. "After doing some checking it seemed to be affiliated with the Communists."

Letter in hand, he visited the

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City News

Thursday, Sept. 23, 1963

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— groups in a political nature.

★ REDS

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San Antonio FBI office. The agents said it was up to him what he wanted to do. He chose to join—and did. A few months later the "front" name was dropped and the organization became known as the "Communist Party of Texas."

He was formally inducted into the party on Sept. 23, 1945.

On Sept. 23, 1963—18 years later to the day—he was sitting in a witness chair in Washington.

"That's what I did all this for, so I could someday sit in a witness chair," he said.

How does he feel about it now? "Relieved . . . relieved . . . I'm relieved. That's all I can say," he said.

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DMN 7-27-63 P.5
Documents on Reds
In Texas Reviewed

By JOHN MASHEK

Washington Bureau of The News
WASHINGTON — A member of the Subversive Activities Control Board said Thursday the board would probably decide within the next few months on a Justice Department application to require a San Antonio man to register as a member of the Communist party.

The registration of John William Stanford Jr., 38, identified by FBI undercover employes as executive secretary of the party in Texas, is pending before SACB member Thomas J. Donegan.

Donegan is now reviewing certain documents produced in evidence by the FBI undercover spies to see if Stanford's attorney is entitled to inspect them for purposes of cross-examination.

UNDER CERTAIN conditions, in a ruling by the Supreme Court four years ago, the defense is entitled to see FBI information and records if they relate to direct testimony of a witness.

The documents were turned over to Donegan in a hearing at which two FBI-employed spies, including a shoe store salesman from Dallas, told of their connections with Stanford.

The Dallas undercover agent, William J. Lowery, said he had been a member of the party since 1945 and had received an average of \$2,600 per year and expenses from the FBI for his work.

LOWERY SAID he joined the Dallas Communist Party Club and was a delegate to the state executive committee of the party. He said under cross-examination that he had given the FBI names of other Dallas members of the club.

These names were not disclosed at the hearing, nor does the FBI reveal them.

Lowery told of four secret meetings of the party, including two in Dallas, at which Stanford also participated. The two in Dallas were last year, he testified.

One Dallas meeting was in the Jefferson Hotel in July and another at the home of "a Communist sympathizer" in April.

AT THE HOTEL meeting, Lowery said Stanford told members the party was doing a good job in the United States, especially in the east and west. Films of Russia were shown, he said.

In the clandestine meeting at the home in Dallas, Stanford told members he had orders that all national and state offices of the party were being abolished and "future meetings would be on the basis of individuals."

At another meeting in Houston, Lowery related that Stanford told party members the "capitalistic system in the United States cannot be upset without the use of force and violence." This was mentioned during a discussion on Cuba, Lowery said.

LOWERY AND ANOTHER spy for the FBI, Mrs. Rosalie Uniquizo, a San Antonio seamstress, also told of checking on unnamed members of other organizations in the state.

They included the social justice committee of the Unitarian church in San Antonio, PASO (Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations) and the American GI Forum, a veterans group.

A spokesman for the FBI made it clear the spies were reporting on individuals rather than the activities of the organizations.

Lowery also said he did some reporting on both pro and anti-integration groups. He said one group was reportedly pushing integration fast in Dallas, the other group was "anti-everything." Neither group was identified.

MRS. UNIQUIZO told of Stanford's presence in party meetings at San Antonio. She said she was paid around \$40 to \$50 per month by the FBI for her services.

The witness told of one meeting in which Stanford was asked if he wrote a story for The Worker, the Communist newspaper in the United States, on the election in Crystal City in which a Latin American state wiped out a slate of Anglos.

She said Stanford replied he had mailed clippings from the San Antonio papers and the article was apparently written from them.

STANFORD WAS NOT present at the hearing. He and his attorney, Joseph Forer, have made it clear he does not intend to register. No member of the party or the party itself has registered.

Forer said cases are now pending in the federal courts on the right of the SACB to demand registration of Communists. He said it was "none of the Justice Department's business" what political affiliation Stanford chose.

Last June, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy filed the petition with the SACB to require Stanford's registration.

If the courts uphold the board on appeal and a party member fails to register, he is subject to indictment carrying a fine of up to five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000.

Forer charged the Justice Department with overlooking another case on appeal to "harass Stanford."

CD 320