

Address 1026, etc

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MEMORANDUM

March 12, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

FROM: Burt W. Griffin

As indicated in our memorandum of March 6, 1964 concerning the testimony of Earlene Roberts, we met on Saturday March 7th with Mr. Redlich, Mr. Slawson, Mr. Willens, Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Ely. There was general agreement that further investigation would be appropriate along the lines outlined in that memorandum. Accordingly, further work was divided in the following manner:

1. Mr. Griffin and Mr. Hubert.
 - a. Further investigation of Jess Willard Lynch and Wilburn Walden Litchfield as indicated in paragraph 7.a. of the March 7 memorandum.
 - b. Background information and physical description of Bertha Cheek and Earlene Robert.
 - c. Check-out of report from Mr. and Mrs. Arturo Alcocer Ruiz.
 - d. Investigation of Ruby's Cuban activities.
 - e. Further investigation with respect to Leopoldo Ramos Ducos and Teamsters.
 - f. Detailed statement of activities of Bertha Cheek on November 21 to 25 to be provided by deposition.
2. Mr. Ball and Mr. Belin
 - a. Obtain copies of registration records for rooming houses of Mrs. Bledsoe and Mrs. Johnson for the period September 26, 1963 to January 1, 1964 and identify all other rooming house records presently retained by Mrs. Bledsoe and Mrs. Johnson.
 - b. Details as to persons whom Oswald could have expected to be present at 1026 N. Beckley when he returned after the assassination on November 22nd.

CC: all legal staff.

John F. ...

- c. Detailed statement of the activities of Bertha Cheek and Earlene Roberts on November 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 to be provided by deposition or interrogation before the Commission.
- d. Determination of police cars in the vicinity of 1026 N. Beckley Street at 1 PM November 22, 1963, including Car 207.
- e. Detailed statements from Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Roberts concerning their activities and communications between the time that Oswald returned to the North Beckley address and Mr. Johnson called the Dallas Police Department to inform the Police that he had seen the Oswald picture on television.
- f. Handwriting evaluation of piece of paper turned over to the Dallas police by Mr. Roberts on which she claims Lee Oswald wrote the name O. H. Lee and which she used to maintain the account for O. H. Lee. Also, determination of whether or not it was a normal practice to keep accounts on a scrap of paper such as the one in question.

3. Mr. Mosk.

Check classified advertising columns of Dallas Morning News and all other Dallas newspapers on file at the Library of Congress for the period October 10-15 to determine whether or not there appears (allegedly on October 15, 1963) the personal column advertisement "Running man. Please call me. Please. Please. signed Lee". Also a check of all advertisements both classified and regular entertainment ads for any advertisements placed by Jack Ruby with respect to entertainment at the Carousel Club or Vegas Club, sale of either club, solicitation of a partner or any other matters. With respect to the entertainment ad for the Carousel and Vegas Clubs, it will be sufficient to note the general character of the ad, the date upon which the ad changes and the nature of the change.

4. Mr. Stern.

Determination of when Oswald's picture first appeared on television in Dallas, together with station which carried photograph and, if possible, source of the photograph.

5. Mr. Slawson.

Provide statement of Sylvia Odio to Hubert and Griffin.

6. Mr. Redlich.

- a. Citation to all statements of Earlene Roberts.

b. Details as to how and when Oswald first became a suspect. (Information so far is that Mr. Truly notified Fritz, Fritz checked police records and learned, while checking, that Oswald was presently being held at the City Hall in connection with Tippit murder.) Question remains as to how Truly came to notice that Oswald was missing since Truly, presumably, did not work closely with Oswald.

c. Determination of how police happened to go to 1026 N. Beckley.

7. Mr. Eisenberg.

a. Determination of how Oswald got room at 1026 N. Beckley. (There has been a general inference that Oswald obtained the room by finding an ad in a newspaper or by seeing a sign in a window. However, Mrs. Johnson has stated that when Oswald first inquired about a room she told him that she did not have a room available other than the one next to Mrs. Roberts which ordinarily was not rented out. Thus, Mrs. Johnson's story would suggest that no advertisement or sign attracted Oswald's attention to the 1026 N. Beckley address). In connection with this inquiry, it may be relevant to ascertain how Oswald happened to return to the 1026 N. Beckley address after he had been told a room was not available. Did Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Roberts contact him? What other rooming houses did Oswald inquire at?

b. What was the source of the material used in counterfeiting the Alek Hidell identification cards? Were these cards really found in his billfold? (The Secret Service inventory shows copies of the Selective Service card in the billfold at the police property room on November 24. The original was in a metal box which allegedly came from his room at 1026 North Beckley. The various reports state that the card was originally on his person. Were materials similar to those used in the counterfeit cards available to any of the employers where Oswald had previously worked?

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the Bethesda Naval Hospital concludes that the throat wound was an exit-type wound and that all the bullets striking President Kennedy were fired from a point behind him.

3. CLAIM: Oswald was one of the worst shots in the Marines or for that matter in any other military service. Page 81.

INVESTIGATION: Buchanan himself has stated that Oswald was in the "sharpshooter" class in his shooting in the Marine Corps. In addition, Buchanan has admitted that the "sharpshooter" class is an intermediate class between "expert" on the top and "marksman" on the bottom.

4. CLAIM: The FBI denied reports that Oswald had been seen repeatedly driving a car into a Dallas rifle range for target practice. Page 91.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI has made no such public denial. However, our investigation has shown that Oswald was lacking in ability to drive a car.

5. CLAIM: The FBI in an off-the-record briefing denied that palmprints were found on the rifle associated with the assassination of President Kennedy. Page 95.

INVESTIGATION: The FBI made no such denial. As a matter of fact, the FBI Identification Division identified a latent impression taken by the Dallas Police Department from the barrel of the rifle as the right palmprint of Oswald. It is noted that Mark Lane, in the "National Guardian" of December 19, 1963, alleged that the FBI in off-the-record briefings had announced that "no palm prints were found on the rifle."

6. CLAIM: The paraffin test made of Oswald's hands and right cheek following his arrest by the Dallas Police Department showed a residue of gunpowder on his hands but none on his cheek. Therefore, according to Buchanan, the test proves that Oswald could not have fired a rifle inasmuch as the rifle would have deposited residue of gunpowder on his right cheek. Pages 93-96.

INVESTIGATION: The paraffin test has been found by the FBI Laboratory to be extremely unreliable and inconclusive as to whether or not a person has fired a weapon.

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7. CLAIM: A photographer filmed the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building at 12:30 the day of the assassination. This photograph shows two silhouettes in the stockroom and a clock on top of the building indicating the time as 12:30. Pages 96-97.

INVESTIGATION: Such a photograph is not known to the FBI. However, the FBI has a copy of a photographic print made from a movie film reportedly taken at the assassination scene. In the print an object appears in the window from which the assassination shots were fired. This photograph has been examined by the FBI Laboratory and the U.S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center, Suitland, Maryland, and the conclusion was reached that the image seen in the window does not depict the form of a person or persons and is probably a stack of boxes later determined to have been in the room. No clock on top of the building appears in this photograph.

8. CLAIM: No employee who had access to the lunchroom at the Texas School Book Depository would have eaten his lunch on the sixth floor - especially not Oswald, since it risked an additional incrimination. However, an "outsider," hiding for a period of time prior to the assassination in the room on the sixth floor, would have required food. Pages 96-98.

INVESTIGATION: An employee of the Texas School Book Depository has advised that he ate lunch near the third double window on the southeast corner of the building on the sixth floor, sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon on November 22, 1963. The employee has stated that he left the remnants of his lunch, including bones of fried chicken, near the window after he had finished eating. He has also stated that he left the sixth floor a few minutes after noon to join two fellow employees who were eating their lunch on the fifth floor of the building. He has stated that he did not see Oswald or anyone else at the windows on the south side of the building during the time he was on the sixth floor for lunch.

9. CLAIM: Oswald would have had to have been "the fastest runner since the great Olympic title holder, Jesse Owens" to have fired the assassination shots, hidden the rifle on the sixth floor, descended to the second floor lunchroom, and obtained a soft drink from a dispensing machine before the building superintendent, Roy S. Truly, and a Dallas policeman confronted Oswald at the second floor lunchroom. Pages 98-100.

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INVESTIGATION: A survey was conducted by FBI Agents to determine the time taken by various routes and speeds to follow Oswald's actions immediately after the assassination shots. It is noted that the survey was conducted at a fast walk except in areas where an individual would have walked at a normal pace as was not to arouse suspicion. The survey showed that, walking from the window on the sixth floor via stairways, it would have taken Oswald about one minute and forty-five seconds to reach the front door of the Texas School Book Depository. The longest period of time to make the same journey, allowing 30 seconds in the lunchroom and involving the use of a passenger elevator for part of the descent to the second floor, was found to be three minutes and forty-nine seconds. It is noted that Truly has advised that he and the police officer arrived at the lunchroom on the second floor of the building in about two or three minutes after the assassination took place.

10. CLAIM: The assassin who fired at President Kennedy from the railway overpass fled the scene and left the murder weapon on that bridge behind him. Page 107.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has failed to develop any indication that a second rifle used in the assassination was found near the railway overpass and that a second assassin was involved in the killing of President Kennedy.

11. CLAIM: The name of the rifle used in the assassination appeared on the rifle. Page 108.

INVESTIGATION: Examination of the rifle used in the assassination does not reveal the name of the manufacturer of the weapon. However, it is noted that there is a description thereon that the rifle was made in Italy.

12. CLAIM: The Post Office in Dallas to which Oswald had the rifle mailed was kept under both his name and that of "A. Hidell." Page 111.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has revealed that Oswald did not indicate on his application for others, including an "A. Hidell," would receive mail through the box in question, which was Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas. This box was obtained by Oswald on October 9, 1962, and relinquished by him on May 14, 1963.

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13. CLAIM: A detailed and "remarkably correct description" of Oswald was sent out over the police radio in Dallas at 12:36 p.m., November 22, 1963. Pages 110-116.

INVESTIGATION: The radio logs of the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office show that no description of Oswald or any other person in the assassination was broadcast at 12:36 p.m., November 22, 1963. Beginning at 12:43 p.m. and 12:49 p.m., respectively, and continuing until Oswald was taken into custody by Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, descriptions of an unnamed suspect described as a slender white male, 30 years old, five feet ten inches tall, 155 or 165 pounds, who was possibly carrying a rifle. This suspect was reportedly seen running from the Texas School Book Depository after the assassination. A description of Oswald's physical background information and the autopsy report on his body were he was 24 years old, five feet nine inches tall, weighed an estimated 150 pounds and had brown hair and blue-gray eyes. Although the descriptions broadcast approximated Oswald's height and weight, these descriptions were not accurate as to his age and hair color. Specific details regarding the colors of his hair and eyes in broadcasts were made before Oswald's arrest that named Oswald as the suspect or gave a description of him. It is also noted that the radio logs have shown that Oswald did not become a suspect and was reported missing from the book building at approximately 12:45 p.m.

14. CLAIM: Police knew Oswald's boarding address, 1026 North Beckley Street. The sources of his address were the records of the Texas School Book Depository, the Dallas Police Department, and the FBI, which had been furnished that address by Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Oswald's wife was living at the time. Page 119.

INVESTIGATION: The records of the Texas School Book Depository did not show his address as 1026 North Beckley Street, but it did contain Mrs. Paine's residence in Irving, Texas, address. The Dallas Police Department has denied that it has a record of Oswald prior to the time of the assassination. Mrs. Paine had not advised the FBI of Oswald's boarding address prior to the assassination.

15. CLAIM: Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit was in favor with his superiors in the Dallas Police Department and had gone ten years without a promotion. Page 120.

INVESTIGATION: A copy of the Dallas Police Department file on Police Officer J. D. Tippit furnished by that Department has been reviewed by this Bureau. While the file shows that

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