From Jesse Lee

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1963

Series of Letters Written by Oswald Given to FBI

Sent to Pro-Castro Unit, Claim 2 Papers

NEW YORK (AP)—The FBI has obtained a series of letters written by the late Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, two New York newspapers reported Sunday.

The Times said Vincent Theodore Lee, 36, of New York, chairman of the committee which is sympathetic to prime minister Fidel Castro, released copies of six letters from Oswald. The originals, Lee said, were turned over to the FBI.

WITHOUT SANCTION

Lee said they showed that Oswald had set himself up as its New Orleans representative without sanction of the national office, according to the Times.

The Journal-American, in a copyright story, said the FBI had found letters from Lee in Oswald's effects, but would not discuss them.

When Oswald's alleged connection with the committee was first reported, soon after the assassination, Lee said he could not recall the man and that the committee had no New Orleans branch.

SEARCHED FILES

After inquiries from the FBI Lee said he searched committee files last Thursday and found the Oswald letters.

The Times said Lee stated he did not recall answering any of Oswald's letters, but that his standard reply to such inquiries was a "cordial" letter, advising the would-be representative to get a post office box and "not go around shooting off your mouth where you work or at home so that you lose your job."

Oswald's first letter, reportedly written late last April from Dallas, reported he had passed out "Fair Play for Cuba pamphlets" wearing a home-made placard reading, "Hands Off Cuba. Viva Fidel." He asked for more pamphlets. Lee said he didn't know where Oswald got his original pamphlets.

MOVED TO N. O.

The second letter, dated May 26, reported Oswald had moved to New Orleans and asked for formal membership in the committee. He said he was thinking about forming a committee branch and was considering renting a $30-a-month office at his own expense.

The third letter, the first one addressed "Dear Mr. Lee," said he had "jumped the gun on the charter business," and had printed 2,000 circulars and a membership blank of his own devising. He said he would charge $1 a month dues, but offered to forward $5 to the national committee for every member who paid five months dues in any year.

In a fourth letter, on Aug. 1, Oswald said he had rented an office, but it was closed three days later on the landlord's claim that it had to be remodeled. He said he continued working out of a post office box and conducted street demonstrations.

ROBBED OF SUPPORT

One street demonstration, Oswald wrote, had resulted in an attack by some anti-Castro Cuban exiles and to his being "officially cautioned by the police." There was no elaboration.

"This incident robbed me of what support I had, leaving me along," Oswald wrote.

The fifth letter, dated Aug. 12, reported he had been fined $10 for the "incident," but that he thought the press and television coverage would be good for the committee.

In the sixth letter, dated Aug. 17, Oswald reported he had been interviewed on television, resulting in a flood of calls and invitations to debate.

'NOT RESPONSIBLE'

"You can, I think, be happy with the developing situation here in New Orleans," Oswald wrote.

Lee said there were also three postal notices in the files, one dated Nov. 1 which shifted Oswald's address from New Orleans back to Dallas.

Lee expressed shock at the "dastardly" assassination of President Kennedy, and also deplored the subsequent murder of Oswald.

"Whether Oswald was guilty or innocent," he said, "we certainly are not responsible for his completely independent action."

SOME MISSPELLINGS

Oswald's letters were handwritten with some misspellings, the Times said. It quoted the first one in full:

"Dear Sirs:

"I do not like to ask for something for nothing but I am unemployed.

"Since I am unemployed I stood yesterday for the first time in my life, with a placare (sic) around my neck passing out fair play for Cuba pamph[lets] etc.

"... only had 15 or so, ... minutes they were all ... was cursed as well as ... by some.

"My home-made (sic) placa[rd] said 'Hands Off Cuba, Viva ... del.' I now ask for 40 or more of the fine basic pamphlets—14.

"Sincerely,

"Lee H. Oswald."

SECOND LETTER

Lee said he had no idea wh[at] the number "14" meant. He ... he had been on a West Coa[st] tour at the time the letter was received, but evidently someone in the national office had sent Oswald pamphlets. There was a notation on the letter "sent 4-19-62."

In the second letter, ... for formal membership ... gesting he might open an office at his own expense to form a New Orleans branch, Oswald wrote:

"Of course I work and could not supervise the office at all times but I'm sure I could get some volunteers to do it.

"I am not saying this project would be a roaring success, but I am willing to try."