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FBI Didn't Report Oswald Wife Tap

New York Times News Service

The FBI tapped the tele- phones and bugged the liv- ing quarters used by Mari- na Oswald after the assas- sination of President Kennedy, but it failed to re- port either the fact of the surveillance or its product to investigators for the Warren Commission, ac- cording to a former FBI official.

The offi- ~~cial~~ who was closely involved with the investigation conducted by the Bureau in the wake of the assassination, said that the electronic surveillance was instituted on the Russian-born Mrs. Oswald shortly after her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, was identified as the principal suspect in Kennedy's mur- der.

The surveillance, the for- mer official said, continued for "some months" after the death of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, and the kill- ing of Oswald himself two days later by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator.

BUT HE SAID that, to the best of his recollection, the surveillance never pro- duced information that bore directly on Oswald's mo- tives or supported suspi- cions held by some FBI officials that he had been involved in a conspiracy against the president's life. It was those suspicions, the former official said, that prompted the bureau to initiate its electronic "coverage" of Mrs. Os- wald.

The FBI said in a state- ment yesterday afternoon that the agency had "con- ducted an electronic sur- veillance of Marina Os- wald's residence from Feb. 29, 1964, to March 12, 1964, based upon written approv- al of the attorney general of the United States."

At the time, the govern- ment contended that in "national security" cases court permission was not required.

~~THE FBI did not deal~~ with its reported failure to inform the Warren Com- mission of the eavesdrop- ping effort.

None of the volumes of testimony or evidence pub- lished by the Warren Com- mission contain any hint that commission lawyers were told by the FBI of its surveillance of Mrs. Os- wald.

Key commission counsel and investigators confirm- ed that they could not remember having been told that her conversations had been monitored.

David W. Belin, a Des Moines lawyer who was an assistant counsel to the commission, said that if this account was accurate, "it strikes me as horrible" that the commission was left uninformed.

HIS SENTIMENTS were shared by Albert E. Jenner Jr., also a former assistant

commission counsel and now a Chicago lawyer, who said that whether the sur- veillance of Mrs. Oswald had come out "positive or negative," the panel should have been allowed to weigh whatever information was gleaned.

The commission, named for Earl Warren, the late chief justice who acted as its chairman, was set up by former President Lyndon B. Johnson within a week of Kennedy's death, with in- structions to determine the circumstances that sur- rounded the assassination.

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- The Washington Post _____
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- Daily News (New York) _____
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- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 10-30-75

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Marina Oswald home said tapped, bugged

© New York Times News Service, 1975
WASHINGTON—The Federal Bureau of Investigation tapped the telephones and bugged the living quarters used by Marina Oswald after the assassination of President Kennedy, but it failed to report either the fact of the surveillance or its product to investigators for the Warren Commission, according to a former FBI official.

THE OFFICIAL, who was closely involved with the investigation conducted by the bureau in the wake of the assassination, said that the electronic surveillance was instituted on the Russian-born Mrs. Oswald shortly after her husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, was identified as the principal suspect in Kennedy's murder.

The surveillance, the former official said, continued for "some months" after the death of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, and the killing of Oswald himself two days later by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator.

But the former official said that, to the best of his recollection, the surveillance never produced any information that apparently bore directly on Oswald's motives or that supported the suspicions held by some FBI officials that he had been involved in a conspiracy against the President's life. It was those suspicions, the former official said, that prompted the bureau to initiate its electronic "coverage" of Mrs. Oswald.

The FBI said in a statement Wednesday afternoon that the agency had "conducted an electronic surveillance of Marina Oswald's residence from Feb. 29,

1964, to March 12, 1964, based upon written approval of the Attorney General of the United States."

AT THE TIME, the government contended that in "national security" cases court permission was not required.

The FBI did not deal with its reported failure to inform the Warren Commission of the evesdropping effort, and a spokesman said he would be unable to go beyond the statement.

David W. Belin, a lawyer from Des Moines, Iowa, who served as an assistant counsel to the commission, said that if the former official's account was accurate, "it strikes me as horrible" that the commission was left uninformed.

His sentiments were shared by Albert E. Jenner Jr., also a former assistant commission counsel and now a Chicago lawyer, who said that whether the surveillance of Mrs. Oswald had come out "positive or negative," the panel should have been allowed to weigh whatever information was gleaned by the FBI.

- Asst. Dir. _____
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"The Dallas Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

Page 7A

Date: 11-1-75
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Tom J. Simmons
Title:

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or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DALLAS
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Bill:

Our records in Div. 5 show no indication
of telephone, microphone, or any other
kind of electronic surveillance on
M. Oswald at the Willard Hotel



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