

Mr. David G. Flanders, Chief
FOIA/PA Branch
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20535

12/8/79

Dear Mr. Flanders,

Thank you for your 12/4/79 response to my 10/19/79 letter to the Department in which I stated that the originals of the statements taken from employees of the Texas School Book Depository Building were not with the retyped copies in the FBIHQ JFK assassination file.

It now appears that the reason I could not find them in the HQ records is because the originals never reached FBIHQ.

You were kind enough to refer me to 100-10461-1A232. Because of the considerable amount of work I have done to prepare the records for transfer to the University locating 1A232 was not the problem it might have been, coming from 1a through 6 being bound in a single very large Section or volume in which even the cover pages are internal.

Although initial examination of this fat volume would lead one to believe that it consists of what the Warren Commission published, these statements are there, mixed in after the transcripts of the police radio log and some Parkland Hospital records.

The original of Mrs. Arnold's statement confirms what she told a reporter I directed to her, that the statement was written for her by the FBI agent, who limited it to what he wanted included and then made an error in the time at which she left the building. She said it was at 12:25 p.m., which is five minutes before the President was killed. But the agent wrote 12:25 a.m., which is 12 hours earlier. The error is interesting. It also is not the only error in time the FBI made. In an earlier interview no notes relating to which I have seen the FBI placed it at 12:15 p.m.

The former Mrs. Arnold knew Oswald. She told the FBI what is not in the statement written out for her to sign, that as she left the building she saw Oswald on the first floor. It happens that the FBI wanted Oswald to be on the sixth floor at that time and from its own reconstruction of the time required to reassemble the rifle it believes was disassembled busily engaged in reassembling it.

any discomfort that might have come from a witness who knew Oswald and saw him on the first floor at a time that precluded his being the sixth floor assassin was minimized by timing it 10 minutes too early. In this way the first report did minimize any discomfort.

Further mitigation comes from the omission of what is in the much later report, the names of five others who were with Mrs. Arnold. When Mrs. Arnold signed this later record the agent ~~xxx~~ omitted the part about her just leaving the building and seeing Oswald. Instead he wrote in for her to sign that "I did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Kennedy was shot."

This, of course, was five minutes after Mrs. Arnold told the FBI she had seen Oswald on the first floor.

I have no knowledge and no reason to believe that anyone in the FBI put these two records together and asked any of those with Mrs. Arnold for confirmation of her statement that she saw Oswald at a time that eliminated him as the assassin. However, if I am wrong in this I most assuredly would appreciate being referred to any such records, whether they confirm or dispute what Mrs. Arnold actually told the FBI.

Thanks for the help. When a witness gives what would appear to be a pretty farout statement, in this case that the FBI would misdate what she said by a half day, it is good to be able to confirm that it was not at all farout.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 4, 1979

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your appeal to the Department of Justice dated October 19, 1979, and the letter to you from the Acting Associate Attorney General dated October 29, 1979, concerning statements taken from employees of the Texas School Book Depository.

The original handwritten statement of Mrs. Carolyn Arnold and statements of a number of other persons are located in the Dallas files which you have previously received. The file number in which they are located is 100-10461-1A232.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Flanders /WVJ

David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy
Acts Branch
Records Management Division

12/8/79

Dear Quin,

As I recall it when we spoke on 11/6 as I was returning from Carolina when you mentioned this matter you said that the FBI had told you that I had claimed not to have the records whereas I do and that they did or could clobber you over this.

I could make only initial response prior to getting Flanders' letter. I then informed you that what I had actually written is that the originals were not with the unoriginals. as you can now see, the unoriginals hide much from MOBILE. At least I think so.

It will surprise me if you hear any more about this from the FBI.

And I really do not think you will be clobbered.

If you have never given thought to why the FBI destroys its notes so often after reports are typed up maybe this can give you an indication.

I can provide many more.

So now you know why he who loves scripture is in some places regarded as a devil.

Best wishes,