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there were signs from Seoul that Tongson Park might soon be offered up. But he may not be enough. In a speech in New York, Jaworski said that "rendering Tongson Park is not the answer to our needs. The President of the Republic of South Korea must not make the mistake of the former President of the United States in Watergate days. There must be no obstruction to truthful disclosure of the facts." With another committee holding up the transfer of \$800 million in U.S. military equipment to South Korea, the scandal was becoming a far bigger problem for President Park Chung Hee than he or his generals ever expected.

—DON HOLT with ELAINE SHANNON in Washington

left the Administration back at square one in the delicate business of picking an FBI chief. "I don't think there's anybody who has an inside track," admitted one key Justice aide. Attorney General Griffin Bell himself said he would put off the search for at least two weeks, planning "to let the dust settle and rethink the selection process."

The loss of Johnson was a bitter disappointment to Bell, and another blow to the FBI. The bureau is still rattled by the indictment of agent John Kearney and the ongoing grand-jury investigation of higher-ups for ordering the opening of mail, break-ins and wiretaps against radicals in the early 1970s. Even Bell, who made the decision to indict Kearney in April, now seems uncomfortable with it. Bell's original strategy was to try Kearney first, then bring other indictments.

OPENING THE JFK FILE

Never satisfied with the official explanation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, those with a well-honed sense of conspiracy have sifted the available evidence for years. This week, assassination buffs will have a new motherlode to mine when the FBI releases the first half of its 80,000-page file on the death of Kennedy.

Newsweek has examined 600 pages in the file and nothing in them upsets the basic finding of the Warren Commission—that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy. What is revealed—in memos, cables and reports—is largely favorable to the FBI. The new material indicates that the FBI checked out every lead, regardless of how improbable it seemed. And contrary to popular criticism, the documents also suggest that the late J. Edgar Hoover did not casually dismiss the possibility of a conspiracy.

But the new information does create some new loose ends. According to the documents, FBI agents traced the bullets that killed Kennedy—6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano shells—to the Western Cartridge Corp. of East Alton, Ill. They found that the company had manufactured 4 million rounds of the

more upset. Some say that the Justice Department was "foolish" to indict Kearney. Andrew Decker, the head of the records-management division, has accused some Justice officials of "engaging in a vendetta" against the FBI. Another agent, David Ryan, has filed a suit in Federal court that charges the Justice Department with undertaking "unethi-

solved when the agent was shown Bell's written authorization—but Bell could not guarantee the agent's second request.

The threat of lawsuits worries many agents. Though Kearney is the only agent who has ever been indicted on criminal charges, 224 civil lawsuits have been filed against the bureau or individual agents. According to FBI deputy associate director James Adams, the current law has a Catch-22 hook. Government lawyers will defend him—unless he argues that he was only carrying out official duties. Then the government is locked in a conflict-of-interest situation. It will pay for the agent to retain outside counsel, but either way, he is personally



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Oswald, Mannlicher: More questions

order house in Chicago. This version is supported by the fact that Oswald carried a draft card bearing Hidell's name.

Until now, it has been widely accepted that Dallas authorities waited 24 hours to reveal the existence of Oswald's fake Hidell draft card. To some, the delay suggested that the authorities planted the card on Oswald to link him to the assassin's rifle—and thus cover up the existence of Hidell. But the new documents reveal that only minutes after Oswald was confined to the Dallas police headquarters, the San Antonio bureau of the FBI got an "urgent" message from a local Army intelligence officer named Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones.

It said that "Oswald was carrying a selective service card having the name of Alek Hidell." The message was immediately passed along to Hoover in Washington and to FBI colleagues in Dallas.

Close Watch: How did Jones acquire the information? In one part of his message to the FBI, he says he was listening to "news broadcasts," but it is not at all clear if that's where he learned about the draft card. Had some reporter's scoop gone unnoticed in the tumult of the day? Was Army intelligence aware of a conspiracy? Or did Jones simply have a contact in the Dallas Police Department?

The new material also shows that the FBI kept close watch on Oswald for years, but lost track of him for several weeks in September and October of 1963. He had moved with his wife Marina from New Orleans to Dallas, and three days before Kennedy was killed, the New Orleans office sent a routine memo to Washington and Dallas, advising that it was passing the responsibility for monitoring Oswald to the Dallas office. The memo notes Oswald's business address: Texas School Book Depository, 411 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas. It arrived on Nov. 22.

—PETER BONVENTRE with DAVID C. MARTIN and JOHN L. LINDSAY in Washington



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