

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
INTERVIEW OF SPECIAL AGENT
ROBERT M. BARRETT
DECEMBER 17, 1975

I was asked if I had any opportunity to see Oswald in the police department at that time or any other subsequent time and I stated to the best of my knowledge Oswald had been taken to the office of Captain "Will" Fritz, that I never did go to Captain Fritz's office at any time on November 22, 23, or 24, 1963, and that I had never personally observed Oswald subsequent to his arrest in the theater in Oak Cliff.

At this point in the interrogation, Mr. Wallach asked me if I knew that disciplinary action by the Bureau had been taken against SA (James) Hosty. I advised them that I was aware of this through my association with Hosty in Dallas. I was then asked if I knew that some Assistant Directors of the FBI had been disciplined because of their handling of certain matters in the assassination investigation. I stated I was not aware of this and had no knowledge of any such disciplinary action.

Mr. Wallach then asked me if I had attended a "going away" party held, not in the Dallas Office, for Hosty by his friends in Dallas. I stated I did not recall any such party and further felt that if there had been such a party I would have been invited and would have attended because Hosty and I were in the same car pool, we attended the same church, we belonged to the same clubs, and I had coached his son on the school football team, and further, that many of Hosty's friends were also my friends.

I was asked if I recalled a conference being held by SAC J. Gordon Shanklin on the early morning of November 23, 1963, in which Agents of the Dallas Office were given instructions on investigation to be conducted that day. I stated that I recalled reporting to work on Saturday, November 23, at about 6:00 AM after having worked to about 3:00 AM that same morning from the Friday before, and I did not recall any such conference held by Mr. Shanklin.

I was asked if there had not been a conference on the morning of November 24, 1963, in which Mr. Shanklin instructed the Dallas Agents not to go near the area at the city jail where Oswald was being removed that day and I

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stated I did recall these instructions, and further, I had been instructed, along with SA Ivan D. Lee, to go to KRLD-TV Station to obtain any pertinent photographs that that station might have and further, that while there I had observed, on closed circuit television, the Oswald shooting in the basement of the police department. I was asked if I had any knowledge of a telephone call received by the FBI during the night of November 23-24, 1963, containing a threat against Oswald. I said that to the best of my knowledge, I did recall something to the effect that SA Hilton Newson had been on duty during the early morning hours of November 24 at the Dallas FBI Office and had received such a call. I could not recall at this time who was the source of this information nor did I recall any details as to the contents of the call.

Mr. Wallach then asked if there had not been some occasions when Agents of the Dallas Office had been discussing the assassination and discussing whether or not it was their opinions that it was the act of one man acting alone or was a conspiracy. I stated I was sure that there had been such discussions on an informal basis but that I could not recall any details or anything as to when such discussions were held or who was present and, further, that I was sure that everyone connected with the investigation would have made some personal conclusions.

At this point, Mr. Wallach asked if it was not true that Mr. Shanklin or some other Bureau official had given explicit directions that the investigation was to establish that Oswald acted alone in connection with the assassination. Before I could answer this question, Mr. Wallach stated that such information had been received from other FBI Agents. I stated that this was not so, that I did not believe any other Agents had made such statements, and further, that we had, to the contrary, been given instructions to conduct our investigation in an effort to establish all the facts to identify all persons involved.

At this point, which was about 4:23 PM, Senator Schweicker left the room and did not take any further part in the interrogation.