

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA JOHN P. MC HUGH

Office: SAN FRANCISCO

Date: 6/19/64

Field Office File #: 89-58

Bureau File #: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: IS - R - CUBA

Synopsis: Set forth is a verbatim transcript of an edited tape recording made November 22, 1963, of a long distance telephone interview between the Radio News Director of a Sacramento, California, Radio Station and Sergeant GERALD HILL of the Dallas Police Department. In this recording, Sergeant HILL described his part in the capture of LEE HARVEY OSWALD on November 22, 1963, and some of OSWALD's comments subsequent to his apprehension.

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SF 89-58  
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DETAILS:

On June 10, 1964, Mr. CHET CASSELMAN, News and Public Affairs Director, Radio Station KSFO, 950 California Street, San Francisco, California, made available to SA JOHN P. MC HUGH an edited copy of a tape recording of a twenty-five minute radio program entitled "Death in the Morning" which was presented over Radio Station KSFO at 6:45 p.m. on November 22, 1963.

Featured in the above-mentioned tape recording, according to Mr. CASSELMAN, was a telephone interview between BOB WHITTEN, the Radio News Director of Radio Station KCRA, Sacramento, California, and Sergeant GERALD HILL of the Dallas Police Department.

Mr. CASSELMAN advised that Mr. WHITTEN was formerly associated with Radio Station KRLD in Dallas, Texas, and had contacted Sergeant HILL by long distance telephone call on the day of the President's assassination securing the interview which (after editing) was placed on the above-mentioned program and which is set forth verbatim below:

SF 89-58  
JPM:mal

Sgt. GERALD  
HILL:

The first call that I got was that the President had been shot and the shot had come from the Texas School Book Depository at Elm and Houston Streets. They sent me down there. I started in with a couple of deputy sheriffs and we were checking the building with - as well as a bunch of other officers - but one of these deputies and I were lucky enough to find the window where the shots were fired from and also the three shells laying on the floor. Uh - I went back down - we secured the scene - to report to the Inspector so he could get the Crime Lab and everything out there, and while I was there talking to him a call came out that an officer had been shot. Some citizen was using the police radio. That call came out - the Acting Lieutenant in Oak Cliff and I were together standing there talking to the Inspector and he ordered us - being that we had all the police in town pulled down there on Elm Street - he ordered us to leave this investigation of the President's shooting and go to Oak Cliff. We did. When we got out there the officer had already been picked up. We got a description of the suspect and started following his path as best we could. We had information that he was in one of two houses that were vacant over on East Jefferson. We went in over there and called for some more help to cover off the buildings and everything. We shook those down and he wasn't there, and then we got a report that he was in the library at (inaudible) and Jefferson.

BOB WHITTEN:

Where were these reports coming from, GERALD?

Sgt. HILL:

From people who had heard the description of the man. Then when we got to the library we found out that was another false alarm. A third call came in that he had been seen entering the Texas Theater. BOB BARNETT from the FBI, and I went into the

SF 89-58  
JPM:mal

theater and everybody else (inaudible) outside. We started checking out the patrons in the theater; the movie was still going on, and on the third one that MAC DONALD started to approach - he was sitting in the third row from the back in the center section - just as MAC DONALD got to him he jumped up and yelled "This is it." He struck MAC DONALD in the face and grabbed for a pistol which he had under his shirt. MAC yelled and all seven of us got into a fight and finally got him subdued and handcuffed - disarmed and then handcuffed. We were then instructed by a Captain to get him out of there and get him to Central Station as fast as we could. Incidentally, PAUL (inaudible) was in on it with us. When we got him outside I don't know whether the people in the neighborhood had just heard about the policeman's death or whether they had heard about - I'm sure they'd heard about the President's too - but there were some six to eight hundred people outside (inaudible) and this, that and the other and some more officers had to be pressed into service right quick who didn't actually have their hands on him but forced the crowd back so we could get him in the car without anybody touching him. Uh - we brought him down and turned him and the pistol and everything over to Captain FRITZ. The boy that we apprehended for shooting Officer J. D. TIPPETT is an employee of the book bindery where the shots that killed the President were fired from. He was seen on the floor below the window where the shots were fired some fifteen minutes prior to the shooting. Uh - he was a former U. S. Marine marksman who

SF 89-58  
JPM:mal

defected to Russia in 1957 and returned to the United States approximately a year ago with a Russian bride, I understand. He did admit in the interrogation awhile ago that he was an active Communist. He has not admitted the shooting of the President or the Governor or the police officer, but a gun was found on the sixth floor where it had been hidden; that - I have been told and I can't verify this either way; it was an officer - it was made in Argentina. The man, I understand, has resorted to violence before and possibly shot another policeman somewhere. Also, he won't admit anything other than he was a Communist. He started screaming brutality as soon as we got the handcuffs on him and when we got down here and started to frisk him, the only thing he said was, "When I told you I was a Communist I told you everything I'm going to tell you," or words to that effect, and "I want a lawyer. I demand my rights." But circumstances being as they are with all the other situations together, I firmly believe that we got the man who killed the President of the United States.

Mr. WHITTEN:

GERRY, did you talk to him any?

Sgt. HILL:

Uh - BOB - he's very arrogant. We offered him an opportunity on the way to the station - we told him there were going to be a large number of photographers there and we - quite naturally, automatically everybody thinks brutality when - if you catch a "cop killer," you know. Uh - we told him that there would be photographers there and if he wanted to hide his head we would hold him loose enough - we were going to hold him but he could bend over and hide his face against his chest or, you know, just bend over where they couldn't get a clear view of him, or anything like that. This he refused to do.

SF 89-58  
JPM:mal

he seemed - while he would not admit anything, he seemed very arrogant and proud of what was happening to him.

Mr. WHITTEN: He didn't show any sign of nervousness?

Sgt. HILL: He did not show any sign of nervousness at all. He continually made threats against the officers all the way downtown and I rode in the car with him; about the brutality and his rights and made the statement when we started questioning him about killing the officer, he made the statement-he said, "I don't have to tell you all anything."

Mr. WHITTEN: What kind of a weapon did he use to kill the officer, GERRY?

Sgt. HILL: A .38 snub-nose. It was fired twice and both shots hit the officer in the forehead.

Mr. WHITTEN: What are they going to do with him now?

Sgt. HILL: Capt. FRITZ, the Secret Service and the Rangers, the FBI, have all questioned him and the halls out here (inaudible) are alive with people, quite naturally, and they have moved him upstairs for a little while. And I'm sure that later they'll bring him back down and interrogate him some more but they want to go out to his house and check and find his car and all that stuff and see, you know, if they could find any more things at the time being. I understand that this is being done quite rapidly and some of the pieces are falling into place pretty good.

5

SF 89-58  
JPM:mal

Mr. WHITTEN:

What is the reaction around the Police Department there in Dallas to the whole thing, GERRY?

Sgt. HILL:

The reaction - I think I could pretty well express it - it was a tragedy that it ever had to happen but at the same time, if it did happen and if this man - this man turns out to be the one, we'll feel that we sort of took the blot off our face a little bit by being able to catch him ourselves.