

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 27, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of February 20, 1964, wherein you requested to be advised of the circumstances surrounding the omission of Special Agent James P. Mosty's name and related data as appearing in Lee Harvey Oswald's address book in our report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated December 23, 1963, at Dallas, Texas, in the Oswald case. You indicated it would assist the Commission in appraising the significance of this matter if it knew the names of the Agents, including supervisors, who prepared this portion of the report or made any decision to omit information from the report.

You indicated also that you would like a full explanation.

For your information, I have determined that Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling made the decision as to what information should be included in his report of December 23, 1963. I also determined that Special Agent John T. Kesler had responsibility for reviewing photographic copies of the pages of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book to determine which items needed investigative attention. Such items were set forth as investigative leads to be covered and it was such lead material that was incorporated in Special Agent Gemberling's report of December 23, 1963.

I am enclosing herewith affidavits executed by Special Agents Robert P. Gemberling and John T. Kesler wherein each sets forth his explanation regarding his handling of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book.

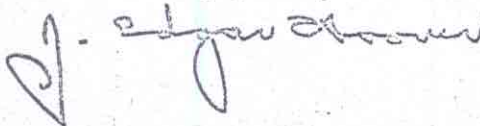
Honorable J. Lee Rankin

I want you to know that I feel our reporting procedures in this matter are completely logical and sound. This Bureau never purported that Special Agent Gemberling's report of December 23, 1963, contained the complete listing of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book and, as you know, additional items in Oswald's address book not previously reported were furnished to the Commission in the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated February 11, 1964, at Dallas, Texas.

This Bureau from the beginning of this investigation has developed and reported all available and relevant facts and it will continue to do so.

I trust that this letter and the enclosures thereto will satisfy the requirements of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" at the beginning.

Enclosures (2)

AFFIDAVIT

I, ROBERT P. GEMBERLING, being duly sworn, depose
as follows:

In the performance of my duties as a Special Agent
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of
Justice, I have been acting as a coordinator in connection
with the investigation into the assassination of President
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

In connection with this assignment the following
information is set forth with respect to my instructions and
the subsequent handling of the contents of the address book
of LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

On approximately December 14, 1963, I instructed
Special Agent JOHN T. KESLER of the Houston FBI Office, who
was on special assignment at Dallas, to review photographs
of the pages of OSWALD's address book for leads. He was
instructed to extract all names and telephone numbers, the
identities of which were unknown, together with any other
lead information, and to prepare a memorandum for use in
setting out such leads.

In connection with this review of the contents
of OSWALD's address book, Special Agent JOHN T. KESLER

prepared a thirty-page memorandum on multilith, the first page of which was on office memorandum form. The information appearing in this address book:

"Nov. 1 1963
FBI Agent (RI 11211)
JAMES P. HOSTY
MU 8605
1114 Commerce St.
Dallas"

was not included in this thirty-page memorandum inasmuch as the identity of Special Agent HOSTY was known to both Special Agent KESLER and myself and was not lead information.

In connection with the preparation of my report dated December 23, 1963, it was my decision to have page one of Special Agent KESLER's memorandum retyped on plain multilith in order that the retyped page one and the subsequent 29 pages of his memorandum could be used as an insert in my report. This was done solely to avoid necessity for retyping the contents of the entire memorandum for a report. It was recognized that as a result of setting out of leads based on Special Agent KESLER's memorandum that results of investigation pertaining to such leads would be forthcoming and it was considered feasible to have the contents of the address book on which leads were based included in a report

in order that when the subsequent results of the leads were reported, such basis would have been previously set forth in a report. No other Agent or supervisory personnel was involved in this decision.

In this connection it should be noted that pages 672 through 701 of my report of December 23, 1963, contain the contents of Special Agent KESLER's memorandum and that pages 673 through 701 bear the typewritten page numbers of Special Agent KESLER's original memorandum.

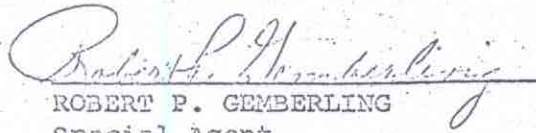
I had no discussion with Special Agent KESLER concerning the inclusion or exclusion of the data pertaining to Special Agent HOSTY in OSWALD's address book, but Special Agent KESLER was merely following my instructions to extract information which was lead material.

It is pointed out that a report of Special Agent WARREN C. DE BRUEYS at Dallas, Texas, dated December 2, 1963, reflects that Special Agent HOSTY interviewed Mrs. RUTH PAINE at Irving, Texas, on November 1, 1963, and November 5, 1963. Also, the report of Special Agent WARREN C. DE BRUEYS dated December 3, 1963, on page 389 there is set forth the contents of a letter from OSWALD to the Russian Embassy in Washington, D. C., dated November 9, 1963, in which letter

OSWALD made reference to Special Agent HOSTY as "Agent JAMES P. HASTY" and his visit of November 1, 1963.

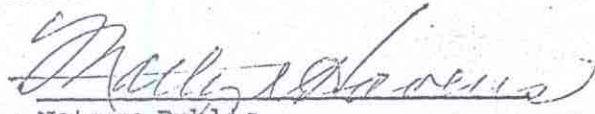
The additional contents of OSWALD's address book which had not previously been reported were included in my report of February 11, 1964, on pages 279 to 283, and it should be noted that none of the information appearing on these pages was lead information.

At no time during the course of the preparation of my reports and the coordinating of the investigation in this matter did I intentionally exclude any material from any report. As explained above, the fact that Special Agent HOSTY had conducted investigation at the PAINE residence on November 1 had been previously reported, his name, office telephone number and license number of his vehicle were not lead information, newspapers and other news media had given much publicity to the fact that Special Agent HOSTY's name and office telephone number were in OSWALD's address book, and the fact that it was not included in my report of December 23, 1963, was solely because it was not lead material and had not been included in the memorandum prepared by Special Agent JOHN T. KESLER for that reason.



ROBERT P. GEMBERLING
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 25
day of Feb., 1964.


Notary Public
Dallas County, Texas

AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF TEXAS,)
COUNTY OF HARRIS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared John Thomas Kesler, to me well known, and who, after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says that:

In the performance of my duties as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, I was assigned on special assignment to the Dallas office in connection with the investigation of the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on November 22, 1963, at Dallas, Texas.

In connection with this assignment on approximately December 14, 1963, I was instructed by Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling, who was coordinating the investigation, to review photographs of the pages of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book for leads. In connection with this review I prepared a thirty page memorandum on multilith, the first page of which was on office memorandum form. I thereafter used this memorandum for purposes of setting out leads to identify individuals and telephone numbers which were previously unknown in the investigation. In the preparation of this memorandum I did not include data from the address book which was not lead material. I did not include the information appearing in this address book with respect to Special Agent Hosty name, office telephone number and automobile license number because the identity of Special Agent Hosty was known to me and this was not lead material. I had no discussion with Special Agent Gemberling or anyone else with respect to the exclusion or inclusion of Special Agent Hosty's name in my memorandum.

At the time I prepared the memorandum I did not know the same would be included in a subsequent report.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this 25th day of February, A.D.

John Thomas Kesler
Notary Public in and for Harris
County, Texas.