

September 22, 1975  
Washington, D. C.

I, James P. Hosty, being duly sworn, hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett and Inspector J. Allison Conley, both of whom I know to be employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

With reference to my affidavit of July 17, 1975, at Kansas City, Missouri, I wish to furnish the following information concerning the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to the Dallas Office sometime prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy during which visit he left a note addressed to me under the name of Mr. Hasty. I wish to point out that since being interviewed on July 17, 1975, I have given constant thought to this entire matter and wish to provide the following additional information.

With regard to Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office and the note he left, there is nothing that I can further recall other than what was stated previously -- Mrs. Fenner handed me the note with some comment to the effect "This is from some nut," and she appeared to take the whole matter as a joke rather than a serious matter. The note as I recall was folded and in an envelope. I took it out, quickly read it while standing in front of Mrs. Fenner. I may have said something to the effect "What a jerk" or "What a goof," or I may merely have thought this and not spoken it aloud to Mrs. Fenner. My best recollection is that this note was in the nature of a complaint,

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complaining about my having interviewed his wife. I recall something to the effect that he said "If you have anything you want to learn about me, come talk to me directly." My best recollection is that the note concluded something to the effect "If you don't cease bothering my wife I will take appropriate action and report this to the proper authorities." I have no recollection of a signature. There was no mention of the wife's name to my best recollection, and at that time I didn't immediately connect this note to Lee Oswald. At the time I had thought it could have been from a Klansman named Jimmy George Robinson, as described in my prior statement, who had made a telephonic complaint to me along these same lines several weeks before. Mr. Bassett has noted the interview of Robinson took place in June, 1963, and that it seems inconceivable that I would think that this was from Robinson. Nevertheless, I realize now how stupid such an assumption was on my part.

After reading the note as mentioned previously, I placed it in my work-box and took no other action on this note nor did I mention it to anyone.

On November 22, 1963, I was in a restaurant eating lunch about 12:45 PM when I heard about the shooting of the President and immediately returned to the office and was instructed by someone in authority to get a car and proceed immediately to Parkland Hospital. On arrival at the hospital I asked over the radio for further instructions and was told by my supervisor, Ken Howe, to promptly return to the office. On arriving at the office I reported to Supervisor Howe and he instructed me to review available material on Right

Wing Extremists which was one of my principal investigative duties and I commenced this project and also talked by telephone to the Intelligence Unit of the Dallas Police Department. While performing these duties I heard of the arrest of Oswald and immediately recognized his name as being a subject of one of my pending cases. I immediately went to the office of the SAC, J. Gordon Shanklin, and told him we had a file on Oswald and he instructed that I immediately locate the file and bring it to him. The file was not in the pending jacket but was soon located in the Chief Clerk's Office with an incoming Washington Field Office airtel dated either November 18 or 19, 1963, which had just arrived in the office and was on top of the file. I immediately carried the file to Mr. Shanklin and I am not sure who else was in his office at the time, but there were other people present with much activity going on. Mr. Shanklin was on the telephone talking to the Bureau and when I entered the room I assisted Mr. Shanklin in answering questions from the Bureau based on my knowledge of the case and a review of pertinent serials in the file. During the course of Shanklin's conversation with the Bureau the Bureau instructed that I, by name, and one other Agent should go to the Dallas Police Department and interview Oswald. I immediately left Mr. Shanklin's Office and proceeded to the Police Department and the Oswald file was left with Mr. Shanklin. During the time I was in Mr. Shanklin's Office with the file I did not have the Oswald note addressed to me in my possession now did I mention it to Mr. Shanklin or anyone else. In fact, the note did not enter my mind at that time.

On arriving in the basement garage of the Dallas Police Department, I

parked my Bureau car and started towards the elevator. Just then Lt. Jack Revill drove into the basement garage in an unmarked police car. I knew him to be the head of the Intelligence Unit of the Dallas Police Department and whom I had many dealings with. He motioned that he wanted to talk to me. I waited for him. He came over to me and said, "I've got a hot lead. There is a guy named Lee who is missing from the book depository. He is the only one they can't account for." I said to Lt. Revill "They already have him in custody upstairs. His name is Lee Oswald" and explained to him he was a Communist. It should be pointed out that Lt. Revill was outspoken in his opposition to President Kennedy and felt that President Kennedy was a Communist sympathizer. Lt. Revill had told me on previous occasions that although he was not a member of the John Birch Society he, Lt. Revill, believed in all of their principles. On the other hand I was well known as an admirer of President Kennedy and Lt. Revill and I had had many heated discussions concerning whether or not President Kennedy was pro-Communist or pro-American. When I told Lt. Revill that a Communist had killed President Kennedy, a look of amazement came over Lt. Revill's face. I do not know whether he said "That couldn't be" or just the look on his face led me to believe this. I then told him "Yes, he had done it. I was fairly sure of it and he could've done it." When I get excited I normally speak at a very fast rate and slur my words. I feel absolutely certain I did not say that Oswald was capable of assassinating the President since I never use the word capable in that context. I feel it is the improper use of the word capable since any person is capable or able to kill any other

person. I based my feeling of the fact that Oswald could've killed Kennedy upon the information that I had obtained between 12:30 PM on November 22 and approximately 3:00 PM on November 22, 1963, when this conversation took place, and the additional information was the shots had been fired from the book depository. The rifle had been found there. Shells had been found there. Oswald was the only employee missing from that building. Oswald had killed a police officer, fled the scene and then had attempted to kill another police officer when apprehended, and it was not based on any information that I had prior to 12:30 PM on November 22, 1963. This conversation took place in the hallway and stairway of the Police Department, which was a complete bedlam of noise. We had to shout to hear each other because of the confusion and noise and I have always felt that Lt. Revill in this conversation, under extremely adverse audio conditions, had misunderstood what I was trying to tell him.

A portion of what transpired during my interview of Oswald on November 22, 1963, was previously set forth in my statement of July 17, 1975. Following the interview I called the Dallas Office to report the interview to the SAC. I believe that it was Mr. Shanklin that I spoke with. The interview with Oswald terminated at about 4:15 PM and I remained in the office of Captain Fritz reviewing a notebook that apparently belonged to Oswald. Probably about one hour later I received a message at the Police Department to return to the office. I did so and reported to Mr. Shanklin in his office. To the best of my recollection there was Mr. Shanklin, Mr. Howe and

myself. They had my workbox in their possession, and Mr. Shanklin or Mr. Howe showed me the note that I had earlier placed in my workbox. Either Mr. Howe or Mr. Shanklin asked me what this note was all about and Mr. Shanklin was obviously perturbed. Based upon the contents of this note and my earlier conversation with Oswald on November 22, 1963, it was apparent that this note I had received earlier was from Oswald. I explained to Mr. Shanklin about my previous interview of Mrs. Paine and Oswald's wife at Mrs. Paine's residence on November 1, 1963, and also the vehement protests that Oswald had just made to me on the interview of November 22, 1963, at Captain Fritz' office. After explaining this to Mr. Shanklin he instructed me to set forth in memorandum form the information which I had orally explained to him making specific reference to the note. I departed Mr. Shanklin's office and dictated this memorandum to Miss Martha Connally. This memorandum was addressed to the SAC under the caption "Lee Harvey Oswald aka; IS-R-Cuba." I set out the circumstances of my interviews with Mrs. Paine, denied any mistreatment of Marina Oswald and explained the circumstances under which I received the note. At the time I dictated this memorandum I did not have the note in my possession, it having been left with Mr. Shanklin. This memorandum when typed was an original and one copy and was more than two pages in length, possibly three or four pages. I remained in the office while Miss Connally was transcribing my dictation and when it was completed I then hand carried the memorandum to Mr. Shanklin in his office and this was probably about 8:00 or 9:00 PM.

I handed my memorandum to Mr. Shanklin, telling him in effect "Here is the memorandum you requested I prepare." I recall no pertinent comment by Mr. Shanklin at this time concerning the note or my memorandum. It should be noted that when I handed this memorandum to Mr. Shanklin it was not block or date stamped and after leaving the memorandum with him I remained on duty until about 2:00 AM Saturday morning.

Nothing further occurred concerning my memorandum and the Oswald note until Sunday, November 24, 1963. I was on duty in the office Sunday morning handling various duties including the handling of complaints and interviewing citizens concerning this investigation and was performing such duties when I learned that Oswald had been shot and later learned that he had died. Approximately two hours later, while I was on the eleventh floor, Supervisor Howe told me that Mr. Shanklin wanted to talk to us and we both proceeded to the twelfth floor office of Mr. Shanklin. On our entering Mr. Shanklin's office, he was <sup>in</sup> and he stated, "Oswald is dead now. There will be no trial." He then handed me my memorandum of November 22, 1963, described above with the note from Oswald attached and told me to get rid of it. My memorandum had not been block stamped or serialized. I then tore up both copies of the memorandum and the note in the presence of Shanklin and Howe, threw it into the waste basket in Mr. Shanklin's office. He said "Get rid of it. Get it out of here." I then took the torn pieces out of the waste basket, left his office and went to the men's washroom located between the eleventh and twelfth floors and flushed all the scraps of paper down the commode.

No one was with me when I did this. I do not recall where Mr. Howe went or if he remained with Mr. Shanklin when I left Shanklin's office.

I have never discussed the circumstances concerning Oswald's note with anyone in or out of the Bureau other than Shanklin and Howe as set forth above.

On November 23, 1963, I was instructed to interview Mrs. Paine in detail concerning Oswald and did conduct a lengthy interview with her during the daytime in the presence of Special Agent Joe B. Abernathy of the Dallas Office. During this interview Mrs. Paine made available to me what appeared to be a rough draft handwritten letter prepared by Oswald and addressed to the Soviet Embassy at Washington, D. C. It should be noted it was subsequently determined Oswald did send a letter to the Russian Embassy. On either the following Monday or Tuesday, November 25 or 26, 1963, as I was preparing to dictate the results of our interview with Mrs. Paine I was not sure how to report Oswald's rough draft letter as furnished by Mrs. Paine so I went to discuss this matter with Mr. Shanklin. I told him I had a letter from Oswald which mentioned my name. He became highly excited and agitated and started screaming at me "I thought I told you to get rid of that letter. Get rid of it." It was obvious to me that due to the extreme pressure that Mr. Shanklin had been under in the past few days that he was possibly verging on a nervous breakdown. I then decided not to discuss the matter with him further and immediately left his office. I do not recall




specifically any other people being present in Mr. Shanklin's office. On leaving Mr. Shanklin's office I met Agent Bardwell D. Odum. He had apparently overheard Mr. Shanklin yelling at me and then inquired as to what the problem was. I told him what had transpired. He then confided in me about the fact that on late Saturday night, November 23 or early morning hours of the 24th, 1963, he had been sent by Mr. Shanklin to interview Mrs. Paine to verify my story as to my interview of Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald and to determine if I had in any way mistreated any one of these individuals. At the time Mr. Odum told me that Mrs. Paine had admitted to him that when she gave me Oswald's rough draft of the letter to the Russian Embassy she had retained a copy of the rough draft that she had made in her own handwriting. Odum told her that she should give that rough draft to him, which she did. He then said that he had taken this rough draft to Mr. Shanklin sometime on the 24th or 25th of November and told Mr. Shanklin about it. According to what Odum told me, Mr. Shanklin had apparently told Odum "I thought I told Hosty to get rid of that note" and, according to Odum, became hysterical. At this point Odum told me he could not understand this comment by Shanklin and I did not respond to Odum's question. Odum had retained this rough draft, however, and we discussed what we could do. I then told him that I would place my copy of Oswald's rough draft in Oswald's handwriting in an exhibit envelope and place it in the file. I did this under the title of "Handwriting Specimens of Lee Oswald." I believe Odum did something similar with his rough draft in Mrs. Paine's handwriting.

*BTW I mean he placed it in an exhibit envelope.*


*BTW By this*

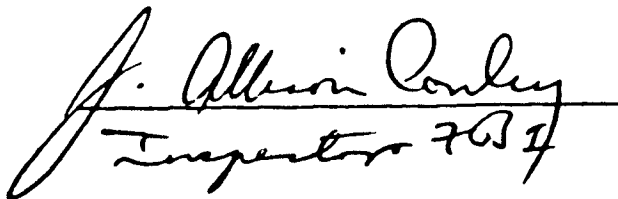
I referred to this rough draft by Lee Oswald in my FD-302 concerning my interview with Mrs. Paine. Later Bureau Headquarters upon reading this interview sent down a request to determine the whereabouts of this rough draft. Fortunately I was able to produce this rough draft from the exhibit envelope and it was forwarded to the Bureau. I believe Odum's copy of the rough draft in Mrs. Paine's handwriting was also forwarded to the Bureau at this time. Following the submission of the rough draft to FBI Headquarters Mr. Shanklin said to me that he had apparently misunderstood me about the rough draft of the letter and then again asked me if I had gotten rid of the earlier letter by Oswald as he had instructed me and I assured him that I had.

I have read this affidavit consisting of this and nine other pages, initialled each page, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

  
James P. Hosty, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 1975

  
and Dir. FBI

  
Inspector FBI