

Dallas, Texas. September 24, 1975

I, J. GORDON SHANKLIN, being duly sworn, hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to Assistant Director H. N. Bassett and Inspector J. Allison Conley of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Messrs. Bassett and Conley made available to me this date the following statements for my review:

The affidavits of Kenneth C. Howe of July 16, 1975, (Two) ~~two~~ July 21, 1975, and September 8, 1975.

The affidavits of James P. Hosty, Jr., of July 17, 1975, and September 22, 1975.

The affidavit of Ural E. Horton, Jr., of July 23, 1975.

The affidavit of Marian F. Roberts of September 6, 1975, and an FD-302 dated September 17, 1975, concerning an interview conducted with Mr. William C. Sullivan on September 16, 1975.

I have reviewed the above affidavits.

With regard to the one<sup>s</sup> from Kenneth C. Howe, I can state categorically that I have no knowledge or recollection of Howe ever bringing the matters he mentioned to my attention either before or after the assassination.

I have carefully reviewed S. A. Hosty's statement of September 22. I have no independent knowledge of Hosty's ever discussing Oswald's being in the office with me or leaving a note

for him or telling him to type up a memorandum and later telling him to destroy the same. It is noted on page 8 of Hosty's sworn statement he refers to the fact that he either on November 25 or 26 was preparing results of an interview with Mrs. Paine and that he discussed the matter with me. He states that when he told me that he had a letter from Oswald which mentioned his name, I became highly excited and screamed at him. I definitely deny that I have ever screamed at any agent, including Hosty.

With respect to retired agent Ural E. Horton's statement of July 23, 1975, I do recall that Horton and I drove from Dallas to a retirement party in Abilene for Coleman Mabry sometime in late 1973 or early 1974. I do know that during the course of this trip Agent James P. Hosty's name was brought up. As I recall, I mentioned the fact to him that I had seen Hosty a month or two previously and that he was still upset over what he claimed to be unjust criticism of his handling of the Oswald case. I don't recall any statement from him to the effect that Hosty was a "damn fool" if it was true he had gotten a note from Oswald and not checked into it. It is noted that Horton states that I appeared astonished at his statement, but I personally do not recall his mentioning a note, and certainly not knowing anything about it I would have been astonished, but as I recall it was just a general statement as to whether Hosty was a well-balanced agent.

With respect to the interview report of former assistant to the director, William C. Sullivan, I desire to state that I am

completely at a loss to understand any comments he has made concerning my conversation with him regarding any note received from Oswald.

I did discuss the Oswald investigation on a number of occasions with him and certainly James P. Hosty's name came up, particularly in connection with the allegation that Oswald was an FBI informer, and as I recall, I submitted affidavits to the Bureau both from Hosty and myself to the effect that he was not an informer.

I do not deny that on a number of occasions I may have discussed disciplinary action against Hosty and other agents involved in the handling of the Oswald matter with Sullivan, and certainly with the Assistant to the Director John P. Mohr, but I categorically deny that there was any such comment made as it relates to a note.

With respect to the fourth paragraph on page 2 of my former secretary Marian F. Roberts' affidavit to the effect that she had heard from some unrecalled source that it was decided to destroy the note, she does not know who made this decision or who would have destroyed it, I have no knowledge of this matter.

A similar allegation was made in the affidavit of Special Agent John V. Almon of September 8, 1975, which I have reviewed, and I have no knowledge of any such meeting ever taking place.

I have also been advised that an unidentified source alleged that a friend of the secretary who received Oswald's letter wrote to me "sometime back" asking me about the disposition of Oswald's note. I never received any such letter.

As above noted, I have no knowledge of the receipt of such a letter, and therefore I never discussed the same with any Bureau officials.

In connection with my handling of the assassination investigation and related matters, I desire to point out that I was in the office at the time that President Kennedy was shot, and as Special Agent in Charge had full responsibility of all the subsequent developments and investigation that took place. It would be absolutely impossible to describe the turmoil, the excitement, the pressures, the number of telephone calls received from all over the world and from FBI headquarters and other field offices. I remember particularly the investigation that was conducted immediately, or almost immediately, to trace the rifle used. There was also extreme pressure to get all the evidence to the FBI laboratory. The SAC at Chicago in connection with this gun, where it was shipped from, sometime during the early evening or night of November 22, called and stated he couldn't even get the teletype or telephone calls into my office.

I personally continuously remained on duty until approximately 11:00 P.M. on November 23, without sleep or rest.

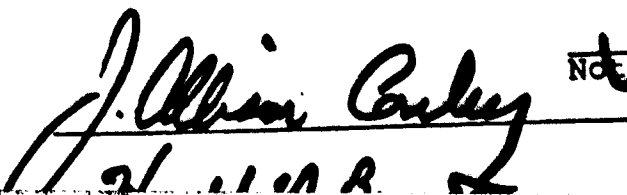
Shortly after arriving home and while preparing to get some rest, a call was received from the office to the effect that an anonymous call had been received indicating Oswald would be killed. As a result of this and other matters which developed, I had no rest and returned to the office at 1:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 24, 1963, and remained on continuous duty, again without any rest, until about 4:00 P.M. on Monday, the 25th, when I went to the Adolphus Hotel for approximately four hours' sleep, and from that date until some ten days later the only rest I had gotten would be approximately four hours per day in the Adolphus Hotel.

I am just pointing this out to show the conditions that existed in connection with the assassination, the killing of Oswald and all the subsequent investigations. I can by no stretch of the imagination remember each and every telephone call or teletype<sup>on</sup> conversation that transpired during this extended period of time.

I have read this affidavit, consisting of five pages, including this page, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

  
J. Gordon Shanklin

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this 24th day of September, 1975, at Dallas, Texas.

  
J. Albin Coker

~~Notary Public Dallas County, Texas~~ 