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**BULKY ENCLOSURE**

**BIN #**

XEROX COPY OF COVER LETTER ENCLOSED

September 29, 1975

MR. CALLAHAN

Asst. Dir.:	
Admin.	
Comp. Syst.	
Ext. Affairs	
Files & Com.	
Gen. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Eval.	
Spec. Inv.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director Sec'y	

Attached is a 27-page report together with the necessary enclosures covering our inquiries to date regarding the Oswald situation.

Initially we felt that the safest way to handle this would be interviewing everyone who was assigned to Dallas at the time the assassination. We feel now that while it still might be the safest way we doubt if any pertinent information will be developed since we have interviewed, in our opinion, all logical individuals with one possible exception. You will note in the first paragraph on page 12 concerning an interview with Special Agent J. V. Almon, he has a vague recollection that former Investigative Clerk Robert G. Reniro had either handled or seen the note in question. Frankly, we have serious doubts as to how much this information might be worth since Almon was considered to be a Dallas Office busybody prior to the time he was transferred to Denver. Nevertheless if there is no objection we will make arrangements to have him located and interviewed probably by SAC, Dallas, if our information is correct that he is still in that city.

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In order to save time in reading this report the first 14 pages have already been read by you since they comprised what was then going to be our report to the Department but then we conducted additional interviews.

We will wait your instructions as to what course of action we should take at this point. However, it is our recommendation that we go ahead and give this report to the Department and after their review sit down with them for further discussion.

1. ENCLOSURE

"ENCLOSURE IN BULKY ROOM"

ST 109 H. N. Bassett 18 NOV 18 1976

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*TK*  
*TK*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: October 1, 1975

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Reference is made to my memorandum of July 29, 1975, captioned as above, which advised you of the results of this Bureau's preliminary inquiry concerning an allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald had visited the FBI office in Dallas sometime prior to the assassination of President Kennedy for the purpose of talking to Special Agent James P. Hosty, Jr. In the absence of Mr. Hosty, Oswald allegedly left a note which was threatening in nature. Also, that this visit and note were not reported following the assassination of President Kennedy by Oswald.

As a matter of background, in my absence from the city, Messrs. Callahan, Adams and Bassett met with Deputy Attorney General Tyler on August 29, 1975. At this meeting Mr. Tyler was advised that in accordance with the feeling of the Department, after a thorough review of my memorandum of July 29, 1975, we anticipated conducting approximately six additional interviews of individuals who were either currently in the Bureau or who had been in the Bureau. Mr. Tyler was in agreement with this course of action. This meeting was later attended by Assistant Attorney General Thornburg and he too subscribed to the additional interviews. He was also in agreement that each person interviewed be furnished a waiver of rights and that the interviews be recorded by sworn statement.

Later in the afternoon on the same day Mr. Adams was advised that the Dallas "Times Herald" newspaper intended to publish a story in connection with the aforementioned allegation and they desired a statement from this Bureau. The proposed statement was prepared and the Deputy Attorney General was advised of the content of this proposed press release. Late in the evening of August 30, 1975, the Bureau learned of the text of the proposed article to appear in the August 31, 1975, issue of the Dallas "Times Herald" (a copy of this

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article is attached). At that point it became apparent that our inquiry would probably have to go beyond six individuals but in any event there would be a logical reason for interviewing anyone beyond the initial six.

Inquiry was conducted by Assistant Director Harold N. Bassett, Inspector - Deputy Assistant Director J. Allison Conley, Inspector Edgar N. Best, all of the Inspection Division; and Special Agents in Charge Philip A. McNiff of the New York Office; Francis M. Mullen, Jr., of the Tampa Office; and Arthur F. Nehrbass of our Jacksonville Office. They all met in Dallas, Texas, on the evening of September 1, 1975, and there followed a thorough briefing concerning the information which had been developed to date.

Unless specifically advised to the contrary, all individuals mentioned herein who were interviewed furnished a signed Interrogation; Advice of Rights form and their interview was recorded by sworn statement. Copies of these statements are attached.

Mrs. Nannie Lee Fenner was reinterviewed on September 2, 1975. She stated that the statement which she initially furnished on July 15, 1975, is accurate within the bounds of her recollection. She categorically stated that the note which she received from Oswald made absolutely no mention concerning President Kennedy. It is her recollection that the note was handwritten, which she described as a large scrawl, very childlike in nature. She indicated that on giving this matter additional thought she was now of the opinion that Miss Helen May may have seen Oswald as he was departing the office after he delivered the note. It may be recalled that in Mrs. Fenner's initial statement of July 15, 1975, she advised that she had shown the note in question to Joe Pearce.

On September 5, 1975, an additional statement was taken from Mrs. Fenner and at this time she advised that it is her clear recollection that Pearce did not see the Oswald note but that he had the envelope and/or letter in his hand and she is certain now that he did not read the letter. She claimed that she told Pearce that "some nut" had left the letter and he merely picked it up and laid it down.

Miss Helen Lee May was reinterviewed on September 2, 1975, and she categorically denied ever seeing Oswald at any time or ever seeing

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the note or letter which he delivered. She did recall that sometime subsequent to the assassination Mrs. Fenner again brought up the subject of the Oswald note and stated that Clark (former ASAC Kyle Clark) had told her to forget about it.

Miss Marian F. Roberts, former secretary to former SAC Gordon Shanklin, was interviewed on September 6, 1975, in Sun City, Arizona. She advised that she was aware that Oswald had appeared at the reception desk of the Dallas Office and left a note with Mrs. Fenner for SA Hosty prior to the assassination of President Kennedy. She stated that she had never seen the note and was not aware of its contents although she had heard the letter wanted Hosty to stop harassing Oswald's wife. She related that she recalled entering the Dallas Office at about the same time that Helen May was entering at approximately mid-day. To her recollection this was a few weeks before the assassination and she and Miss May saw a slender, dark haired, young man hand something to Mrs. Fenner. This was not significant to her at the time; however, following the assassination Helen May said something to her to the effect, "You remember, Marian, we were coming into the office about the time Oswald handed Fenner the note." She stated that after she saw pictures of Oswald after the assassination she can easily assume that he was the individual she saw hand something to Mrs. Fenner. She recalled that on the same day she observed this person Mrs. Fenner told her a short time later a man had left a note for Hosty to quit bothering his wife. She said that Mrs. Fenner told her the man did not say much but he was "teed off" at Hosty. This, according to Miss Roberts, tended to further her belief that the man she and Miss May saw was Oswald. She said, in her opinion, Oswald's appearance in the Dallas Office and the note he left for Hosty were common knowledge among Dallas Office personnel who were there at the time of the assassination. She stated that after the assassination she heard from an unrecalled source that it was decided to destroy the note but she does not know who made this decision to have the note destroyed. She stated she recognized the importance of the note after she heard of the decision to destroy it.

In addition to the above, Miss Roberts also furnished the following information but refused to furnish it in a sworn statement since she considered it hearsay and she had no firsthand knowledge of same. She stated that there was some talk around the office of a meeting held one evening by the Dallas Office "brass" to decide what to do with the note. She recalled that this meeting took place one or two days after the

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assassination and by "brass" she meant SAC Shanklin, ASAC Clark and Mr. Malley (James R. Malley, former Number One Man to the Assistant Director, General Investigative Division). She did not know who furnished this information to her.

SA Charles T. Brown, Jr., was interviewed on September 5, 1975. He advised that his first knowledge of the note reportedly left at the Dallas Office by Oswald came about through a conversation at some time in the early part of 1964 with Special Agent Vince Drain. He advised that he and Drain were discussing Oswald's motive and mental condition which would cause him to do what he did and in talking to Drain along this vein the latter advised that Oswald had left a note at the office prior to the assassination in which note Oswald stated that if the FBI did not stop harassing his wife he would blow up the FBI and the Dallas Police Department. He said that he was so shocked and angered at this revelation that he did not press further as to the disposition of the note and to this date he does not know what disposition was made of it. He advised that in discussing receipt of this note Drain advised that Mrs. Fenner and Joe Pearce, who was then a clerk in the office, were present in the reception room at the time Oswald appeared in the office with the note. According to Brown, at no time did Drain advise him as to the identity of his source of the information. Brown also advised that he participated on two occasions in interviews with Marina Oswald subsequent to the assassination and on neither occasion did she mention that Oswald had informed her of a visit to the Dallas Office prior to the assassination.

On September 5, 1975, SA Joe A. Pearce was reinterviewed. He categorically denied that he ever saw Lee Harvey Oswald, that he had ever had in his hands or in his possession any note left by Oswald and that he had ever read any note left by him. He said that after deliberating on the matter since his prior affidavit of July 22, 1975, he recalled that there were several discussions in the latter part of the 1960s concerning a note left by Oswald for Hosty. During some of these discussions Mrs. Fenner remarked to others in his presence that Pearce had seen the note. He admitted that he did not contradict the statement and explains his failure to do so on his lack of appreciation of the seriousness of what she was communicating to the people involved.

SA Vincent E. Drain was interviewed on September 2, 1975. He advised that the extent of his knowledge concerning the matter was



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as follows. He claimed that approximately six years ago Mrs. Fenner was in the Agents' squad room and she spoke to Drain about Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office prior to the assassination. According to Drain, she said that Oswald was mad at SA Hosty for interviewing his wife. She said that Hosty was not in the office and Oswald left a letter for him. He claimed that to the best of his memory she did not mention the contents of the letter and he did not question her about it or pursue the conversation further. He said this is the first knowledge he had of Oswald either visiting the office or leaving a letter and that he heard no further comment concerning the incident until he read the newspaper story on August 31, 1975.

On September 3, 1975, Drain was reinterviewed in view of certain conflicts as furnished in his first statement. In his second statement he in effect stands on his first statement.

Mrs. Martha Ann Campbell, formerly Martha Ann Connally, was interviewed on September 3, 1975. She is no longer employed in the Bureau but at the time of the assassination was serving as the secretary to Supervisor Kenneth C. Howe. She advised that within a week after the assassination she was in the "Coke room" on the twelfth floor of the FBI space taking a break with one or two other female clerical employees. One employee was Mrs. Fenner and she can't recall the other. She recalled Mrs. Fenner making a statement that Oswald came to the office looking for Agent Hosty and was very upset because Hosty had been interviewing Marina Oswald. Hosty was not in the office and Oswald left a note. Mrs. Campbell stated she was surprised to hear this and immediately after leaving the room she went into Supervisor Howe's office and told him what she had heard. She said that she can't recall his reaction but he asked her who had told her this and who was present. She told him Mrs. Fenner but can't recall the other persons present. She said that upon hearing Fenner's name Howe made a "face" and Howe told her that she was not to discuss the visit or note any more and it was emphatic enough that she followed his instruction. She said that she had enough sense to realize that something was being held back at that time but she said nothing about it. Continuing, Mrs. Campbell



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advised that she cannot recall the full conversation with Supervisor Howe but it would have been either he or Mrs. Fenner who at that time mentioned the note Oswald left was then in Agent Hosty's workbox. She stated she cannot recall ever hearing what actually happened to the note but she had the feeling it was destroyed.

On September 4, 1975, Mrs. Campbell was reinterviewed, results of which were reported by FD-302. In reference to her above statement she cannot be positive whether it was in fact Mrs. Fenner who had furnished the information to her but it was her feeling that Fenner was the one who told her of the letter but she is not as certain of this as she is of the fact that Fenner was present during the conversation relating to Oswald's visit and leaving of the note. She was unable to furnish the identity of any other individuals present. This reinterview of Mrs. Campbell was occasioned by the fact that Mrs. Fenner orally advised that she never took a break and never went to the "Coke room" and also for the purpose of Mrs. Campbell reviewing the office roster at the time of the assassination in an effort to determine if she could recall the other employee who was present.

On August 31, 1975, Tom Johnson, publisher of the Dallas "Times Herald" telephonically contacted Assistant to the Director - Deputy Associate Director (Investigation) James B. Adams. It should be noted that Johnson was identified as the writer of the article appearing in the August 31, 1975, issue of the Dallas "Times Herald" referred to previously. Johnson advised that on that date he received an anonymous telephone call from a female. This individual called at 10:50 a.m., Dallas time and made reference to the article which appeared in that day's issue of the Dallas "Times Herald." She told Mr. Johnson that "Not everyone in Dallas knew about it and she thinks it unfair to leave the impression that many of the men knew about it. In case you are interested, Mr. Hosty destroyed the note on orders of Mr. Howe. Mr. Gemberling was handling the case. Mr. Bill Anderton and Mr. Horton also know of it. Mr. Gemberling knew about the note and saw it but it was destroyed on instructions of Mr. Howe." Subsequently, on this same date, this anonymous caller identified Mr. Horton as Urial Horton. Mr. Johnson advised that he was furnishing this information only for the purpose of asking for confirmation as to whether the information is correct before publication. Mr. Adams informed Mr. Johnson that his request would be noted; however, as previously stated in Mr. Kelley's press release concerning this situation no additional comment would be made by the

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FBI until all inquiries had been completed and the matter considered by the Department.

NO REPORT ON THIS? At the time of this current inquiry SA Robert P. Gemberling was on sick leave, having been diagnosed by his doctor on August 2, 1975, as having had a heart attack. In the absence of obtaining clearance from his physician, who was out of town and whereabouts unknown, Gemberling was not interviewed at this time.

SA James W. Anderton was interviewed on September 2, 1975. He advised that the first knowledge he had concerning a note from Oswald directed to SA Hosty occurred in the general time frame of 1969 to 1970. He said that sometime near the close of business while in the squad room of the Dallas Office he overheard SA Gemberling make some remark about the additional leads he had received concerning the Kennedy assassination. As Gemberling was departing Anderton overheard Mrs. Fenner make a remark concerning either a note or a letter of a threatening nature which had been directed to Hosty from Oswald sometime prior to the assassination. He stated that while Mrs. Fenner did not indicate that this was firsthand knowledge she remarked in unrecalled words that the note or letter had been delivered to Hosty who in turn took it to the Special Agent in Charge. He said that he heard no further discussion on this subject matter until approximately two or three years ago when, during a discussion concerning the assassination he overheard Mrs. Fenner make a remark such as "and the letter" or words to that effect at which time she laughed and departed without further elaboration.

Former SA Ural Horton was reinterviewed on September 4, 1975. He advised that he could furnish no additional information other than what he had previously furnished in his statement of July 23, 1975. He did note that he learned of Oswald's visit sometime between the latter part of November, 1963, and the latter part of December, 1963. He stated, however, that as to how and under what circumstances he first learned of the Oswald note he has no specific recollection whatsoever. He added that the note allegedly contained a threat to Hosty; however, he never saw the note nor is he aware of its disposition. He said that he has the impression that the note and circumstances surrounding it never received official investigative attention but he has no direct knowledge that this is a fact.

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SA James W. Bookhout was interviewed on September 2, 1975. He advised that sometime during the investigation of the assassination case he greeted SA Gemberling in the office and asked him how it was coming. He recalled that Gemberling responded that everything was fine and his only current problem was to decide the propriety of putting a certain Oswald letter into the assassination report. Gemberling said it was not so much his problem as it was that of Special Agent Hosty. According to Bookhout he immediately terminated the conversation since Hosty had already received newspaper publicity in connection with the assassination and he did not want to have any knowledge of Hosty's problems and did not want to get involved with them. He added that he does not know that this particular Oswald letter is the same Oswald letter that is now in question. He did not see the letter and does not know the contents of it.

SA Bookhout also advised that he was present on November 22, 1963, with SA Hosty during an interview of Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas Police Department. He stated that Oswald, upon hearing Hosty's name, immediately showed a hostile attitude toward Hosty and accused him of being the Agent who had been harassing his wife; however, at no time during this interview did Oswald mention that he had visited the Dallas Office and left a note for SA Hosty. Bookhout also noted that he was involved in another interview with Oswald as well as interviews with Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald and at no time was there ever mentioned anything about Oswald having visited the Dallas FBI Office and leaving a note.

On page one of the September 1, 1975, issue of the Dallas "Times Herald" there appeared an article (copy attached) captioned "Ex-Agent: Letter Left in Hosty's Box." This article set forth an interview with former SA Joseph L. Schott. Schott is quoted as stating that he understood that Oswald in his note threatened to kill Hosty if Hosty tried to talk to his wife Marina again. Hosty put his letter in his workbox -- for incoming mail -- and it was still there on the day of the assassination. Schott added that he doesn't know what happened to the letter but assumed it was destroyed. He noted that he did not know whether the SAC knew about it or not but he knew a lot of people in the office knew about it and were talking about it.

Schott was interviewed on September 3, 1975. He refused to sign the Interrogation: Advice of Rights form and he also refused to

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furnish a sworn statement. The interview was recorded by FD-302, a copy of which is attached. Schott refused to identify any individuals who may have furnished the information attributed to him in the above-mentioned news article. He said that when contacted by the Associated Press reporter with regard to the article referred to previously, he referred to some notes that he had made and from these notes he concluded that he had received the information in the early part of 1964, while in Wichita Falls, Texas, in connection with either a Grand Jury proceeding or a trial. Schott claimed that he has since destroyed these notes. He stated that as he understood it Oswald came to the office and gave a note to some people, that it contained a threat to kill Hosty, that Howe saw the note and may have given it to Hosty. Hosty read it and put it in his workbox where it was at the time of the assassination. While Schott refused to identify the source or sources of his information, he did indicate that it might be well to interview those employees currently assigned to Dallas Headquarters who were there at the time of the assassination or shortly thereafter.

In view of the foregoing, United States Attorney Frank D. McCown was contacted on September 3, 1975, to ascertain from available records the identity of cases presented or identity of Agents of the FBI listed as appearing before the Federal Grand Jury in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1964. Mr. McCown advised that it would be necessary to refer this request to the Executive Office for U. S. Attorneys, Washington, D. C., to obtain authority to release such information from his records.

On September 4, 1975, Assistant United States Attorney Alex McGlichey telephonically advised he had received such permission from the Department to make the requested information available to the FBI. It was determined that in 1964 one Federal Grand Jury met in Wichita Falls on October 7, 8, and 9. During those Grand Jury proceedings fourteen Agents were called to appear. Of these fourteen, which includes former SA Schott, only two, SAs Emory Horton and Joseph Hanley, are currently assigned to headquarters in Dallas and Ural Horton, previously referred to, while living in the Dallas area, is retired. Excluding Schott, these were the only three of the fourteen who were interviewed during this current inquiry.

During the current inquiry all those employees still in headquarters city who were there at the time of the assassination or shortly thereafter were interviewed with the exception of SA Gemberling,

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previously mentioned as not being interviewed because of a recent heart attack. In addition to those already mentioned in this memorandum the following were interviewed: SAs Joe B. Abernathy, Robert P. Butler, Milton L. Newsom and Manning C. Clements. Current or former non-investigative personnel who were interviewed, together with the position they occupied at the time of the assassination are as follows: Nancy J. Collins, stenographic supervisor; Elva A. Jones, secretary to ASAC; Wanda V. McElroy, stenographer; Jewell E. Gilstrap, stenographer; and L. Winifred Dixon, assistant chief clerk. Miss Dixon who is no longer in the Bureau was the assistant chief clerk at the time of the assassination and was serving as the chief clerk at the time of her retirement. All of these people furnished statements advising that they had no information whatsoever concerning the matter in question.

The following employees who were assigned to the Dallas Office at the time of the assassination were also interviewed: SAs Will Hayden Griffin, Emory E. Horton, Gaston C. Thompson, Joseph H. Hanley, Raymond C. Eckenrode, Alfred C. Ellington. Noninvestigative personnel who were assigned to the Dallas Office at the time of the assassination or shortly thereafter and who are still so employed were also interviewed: T. Lanette Posey, Evalyn Middleton, and Anna D. King. To varying degrees this group of individuals furnished some information relative to Oswald's visit and the leaving of a note; however, they had no firsthand knowledge, having heard it from some other employee and nothing of significance was developed as a result of these interviews.

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SA J. V. Almon was interviewed on September 7, 1975, in Denver, Colorado. Almon advised that it was common knowledge in the Dallas Office that Oswald did in fact visit the office two or three days before the assassination of President Kennedy, that he had left a threatening note with the receptionist which was addressed to SA Hosty. He claimed that it was also common knowledge that the note was not placed in Oswald's file and was destroyed. He claims that he never personally viewed the note. He stated that to his recollection the first reference he heard to the note was several days following the assassination and he does not recall precisely which Agent first mentioned its existence. He feels, however, that it was one of the following: Edwin D. Kuykendall (now retired), W. Harlan Brown (now retired), Wallace R. Heitman (now retired), Richard E. Harrison (since resigned), Robert M. Barrett, currently assigned to our Birmingham Office, or Robert P. Gemberling previously

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referred to in this memorandum). According to Almon, Mrs. Fenner mentioned the note on several occasions and appeared to have some personal knowledge of it and may in fact have read it. He stated that according to the information he received the note made no reference to President Kennedy but was a threat directed toward SA Hosty if he did not stop harassing Oswald's wife. He said that there was some discussion among the Agents whose identities he does not now recall as to whether the note constituted a violation of the law in view of the threat to an Agent. He thinks that possibly Gemberling or Heitman may have mentioned this but he cannot now be certain.

Continuing, Almon stated that he heard through an employee of the Dallas Office, whose identity he cannot recall, that there was a meeting of supervisors and Agents coordinating the investigation which was held for the purpose of deciding what to do about the note. He said this group would normally include Shanklin, Clark, Howe, Hosty, Gemberling, and Manning C. Clements (now retired). He said that he personally did not know what decision was made or who made the final decision but there was little discussion pertaining to the note following the meeting until the assassination came before the Warren Commission. He stated that following the release of the report by the Warren Commission the matter subsided but would occasionally come up in conversation during Agent gatherings. He recalled that on one occasion one Agent remarked that he wondered what the Bureau would do if they knew about the note and they replied with words to the effect "You had better hope they never do find out." He said that he also recalls that SAs Drain and Ural E. Horton questioned what the Warren Commission would have done had they known about the note and what would happen if the newspapers found out about it. He advised that on another occasion Drain or Horton made some reference to the matter to SA Anderton who remarked "I do not know what you are talking about -- I never saw the note," leaving the impression with Almon that he wanted nothing whatsoever to do with the matter.

Almon also commented that during June, 1975, shortly before his retirement, SA Ural Horton remarked in the presence of Agents Griffin, Drain, Anderton and possibly Hanley that he wondered what would happen if the newspapers found out about the threatening note and someone, possibly Drain, replied, "Let's hope the newspapers never find out about the existence of the note" and the matter was dropped.

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The foregoing was placed in a sworn statement by Almon. In addition, he advised that based on vague recollection he seems to recall a conversation with former investigative clerk Robert G. Renfro wherein Renfro stated that he had either handled or seen the note in question. (Renfro is no longer an employee of the Bureau.) He also commented based solely on his opinion that Joseph J. Loeffler originally had the Kennedy assassination assigned to him and "had to know about it," referring to the Oswald visit and note.

On September 8, 1975, SA Kenneth C. Howe was reinterviewed at Washington, D. C. It may be recalled that Howe furnished three statements in July of this year. In addition to that information which he previously furnished Howe advised that while he can't remember specifically why he knew the note in question was from Oswald he knows it was either signed by him or Oswald's wife's name, Marina, was mentioned therein. He stated at that time they had a case on Marina and he knew her to be the wife of Lee Harvey Oswald. He recalled that the note was on plain paper and was either handwritten or hand printed and was threatening in nature either concerning some action Oswald said he was going to take possibly against SA Hosty or against the FBI office. He said that he can't remember whether he found the note before or after Oswald was shot but believes it was after. He advised that he found the note in Hosty's workbox and considered it of sufficient import to be brought to the attention of the SAC and took it immediately to SAC Shanklin. He can't remember what wording he used to convey to SAC Shanklin what he had but knows that Shanklin was made aware by him of what he had. He recalls that Shanklin's reaction was to wave him away and say, "Don't tell me about it. I don't want to hear or I don't want to know anything about it." He said from this reaction it was his impression that Shanklin had possibly heard of the existence of the note before but he does not know this to be a fact.

Continuing, Howe stated that he cannot remember whether he left the note with Shanklin but feels that at that point one of three things had to have occurred: (1) He left the note with Shanklin; (2) He returned the note to Hosty's workbox; or (3) He held the note and personally gave it to Hosty. He claims that he subsequently told Hosty what had happened but he does not recall having any discussion with him concerning it. He stated that at that stage he felt it was a matter for the SAC to resolve with Hosty and having told both about the matter he took no further action.



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He claims that he did not subsequently discuss it with Shanklin, Hosty or anyone else. He denies instructing Hosty to destroy the letter and denies receiving any instructions from anyone else that he should tell Hosty to destroy the letter. He said he never knew of the ultimate disposition of the letter. He claims he has no recollection of having prepared a memorandum or having made any written record of the note.

Howe was confronted with the information furnished by his former secretary. He advised he does not recall this nor under the circumstances as they existed at that time can he categorically deny it didn't happen. He said at that time the matter was still in the hands of the SAC and until some adjudication by him he felt the matter should not be discussed. He claims that if any decision was made that information concerning the note should or should not be included in a communication he had no part in that decision.

On September 8, 1975, James R. Malley was interviewed at Washington, D. C. He advised that on the date of the assassination he held the position of Number One Man to the Assistant Director of the General Investigative Division. He advised that on November 24, 1963, he received an instruction to proceed to Dallas, Texas, and arrived there approximately 8:00 p.m. that evening. To his recollection he returned to Washington on December 12, 1963. He advised that at no time did he ever hear of Oswald having visited the Dallas Office or bringing a note to the Dallas Office until he read an article in the newspaper in late August or early September, 1975. He also advised that at no time during the period he was in Dallas did he attend any conference at which there was any discussion concerning a note that had been delivered by Oswald.

Concerning Ruth Paine, it was determined on September 9, 1975, that she is currently residing at 222 Winona Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephone VI 9-6799. It was also determined that as of that date she was out of town and the expected date of her return was not known.

On September 10, 1975, SAC Joseph J. Loeffler of our Columbia Office was interviewed at Washington, D. C. At the time of the assassination there were four supervisory desks in Dallas. One was handled by SAC Shanklin, one by ASAC Clark, one by SA Howe and the other by Loeffler.

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Loeffler advised that to his recollection he first learned of Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office probably sometime during the week of November 24, 1963. He does not recall who informed him of this and when the information was conveyed to him he considered it to be common knowledge in the office. Until reading it in the recent newspapers he stated he was not aware that Oswald had left a note. He advised that immediately following the assassination he was assigned to marshal the investigation and insure that appropriate leads were receiving expeditious attention. He denies that he was present at any time during any discussion concerning receipt of a note from Oswald or the decision to destroy such a note.

As you may recall, in Hosty's statement of July 17, 1975, he advised that at the time he received the note he thought it was from another subject of his, one Jimmy George Robinson, a Ku Klux Klan leader from Garland, Texas, who had made a complaint to the Dallas Office of the FBI alleging his civil rights had been violated by the Garland, Texas, Police Department. Hosty stated that he and another Agent went to Robinson's residence and not finding him at home interviewed his wife who gave a completely different version of his allegation against the Garland Police Department. Her statement completely wiped out the civil rights complaint according to Hosty.

The incident to which Hosty referred to is apparently a case handled by him in June, 1963. A copy of the report in connection with this case is attached. In essence it discloses that Robinson was placed in jail in June, 1963, for assaulting his wife. While in jail his wife allowed Garland Police Department officers to search his residence, including the area which he claimed to be his study. He claimed his wife had no right to let the police search his office as it was not under her control; hence, he felt his civil rights had been violated. As noted in this report, Hosty in company with another Agent interviewed Robinson's wife on June 24, 1963. She said that while still married to Robinson she left him following the assault on her person. She stated that she allowed the police officers to conduct a search.

In the September 15, 1975, issue of "Time" magazine, there appears an article on page nineteen captioned "The Oswald Cover-up." This article makes reference to Oswald's visit to the Dallas Office prior to the assassination and delivery of a threatening note. This article

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claims that FBI sources close to the investigation believe that the note was more ominous than Kelley (Director) implied and that the Bureau's Inspectors have learned that Oswald specifically threatened to take action against the Government. This article points out that according to present and former FBI officials John P. Mohr, then the Bureau's administrative chief, told the Dallas Agents to destroy it. Continuing, the article claims that Mohr, who retired in 1972, denies any knowledge of Oswald's note or its disappearance. So too do his former aides in the Administrative Division, Nicholas P. Callahan, James B. Adams, and Eugene W. Walsh. The article notes that the continuing FBI investigation is especially sensitive because these men now hold three of the Bureau's five top jobs.

Sworn statements have been obtained from Messrs. John P. Mohr, Nicholas P. Callahan, James B. Adams, and Eugene W. Walsh in which they categorically denied these allegations.

On September 11, 1975, Sandy Smith of "Time" magazine and the author of the above-mentioned "Time" article of September 15, 1975, came to Bureau Headquarters to see Mr. Adams. Mr. Smith had previously indicated a desire to talk with Mr. Adams. On this occasion Smith was advised that his article troubled Mr. Adams because for the first time there was an allegation that any cover-up which might have taken place could be an institutional cover-up by involvement of FBI superiors in Washington concerning the Oswald note. Mr. Adams noted that if Smith did not act in good faith in preparation of the article and if he could not back it up such could be construed as being malicious and grounds of libel. Mr. Smith stated that he had received this information from four, five, or six separate officials, present or former, and he was certain the information was true. He was asked if all of these sources specifically claimed to have personal knowledge or had just heard that such might be the case and had heard Mr. Mohr had ordered the destruction of the note. He replied that only one of his sources claimed to have personal knowledge Mr. Mohr told the Dallas Agents to destroy it and the other sources had varying degrees of knowledge concerning it.

Smith would not identify his sources and also would not provide any leads leading to the identification of his sources. He said he realized that his allegation was most material to our inquiries and

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recognized he may be forced to produce the identity of his sources through a libel suit or other action and then they could tell their story as they told it to him which would clearly show he acted on information coming from individuals who had provided him with reliable information in the past. He did define official as someone above the Special Agent level and would fall within the range of Special Agent supervisor or a top official, either present or former. During this conversation Mr. Smith also stated that some of his sources indicated that even Mr. Hoover knew about this; however, he did not include it in the article because there was a conflict between his sources in this regard and he confined his article to what the sources agreed upon.

In view of the above information, it was determined that at this point it would be essential to interview those employees and former employees who were involved in the chain of command in the two divisions at Bureau Headquarters who were engaged in Headquarters supervision of the assassination case as well as other individuals who had various reporting responsibilities.

*only* | In view of the above, Mr. John P. Mohr was reinterviewed on September 12, 1975, and the results of this interview were recorded by FD-302. Mr. Mohr was advised of the information which Mr. Smith had furnished and he advised that he had no intention of filing a libel suit because of the high costs involved and the fact that he was already engaged in a suit which may prove financially burdensome. Nevertheless, he stated that if there was some way in which the Government could file a suit in his behalf he would be more than willing to appear before any body, including a grand jury to testify to the accuracy of his prior sworn statement in which he denied having any knowledge of the Oswald visit until it appeared in the newspapers.

The two divisions having the investigative responsibilities with regard to the assassination were the Domestic Intelligence Division and the General Investigative Division. The following individuals were interviewed and title as of the time of the assassination and current status as to whether employed or retired are set forth parenthetically beside each name: (The exception is James Handley, who is deceased, but was in the chain of command and who was directly involved in supervising the assassination case.)

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**Alan H. Belmont (Assistant to the Director - Investigative - retired). Mr. Belmont is seriously ill and therefore no effort was made to obtain an Interrogation; Advice of Rights form or a sworn statement from him.**

**Sterling B. Donahoe (Inspector - Number One Man to Mr. Belmont - retired).**

**Alex Rosen (Assistant Director, General Investigative Division - retired).**

**James R. Malley (Inspector - Number One Man to Assistant Director, General Investigative Division). See prior interview of Mr. Malley.**

**James Handley (deceased, but at the time of the assassination was the Section Chief of the Criminal Section, General Investigative Division).**

**Henry A. Schutz (Unit Chief, Criminal Section, General Investigative Division - retired).**

**Richard D. Rogge and Fletcher D. Thompson (both Supervisory Special Agents, Criminal Section, General Investigative Division, who had reporting responsibilities and who arrived in the Dallas Office on November 25, 1963, to assist in the preparation of the initial communications. Rogge is currently employed. Thompson is retired.)**

**William C. Sullivan (Assistant Director, Domestic Intelligence Division - retired).**

**Joseph A. Sizoo (Inspector - Number One Man, Domestic Intelligence Division - retired).**

**Donald E. Moore (Inspector - Number Two Man, Domestic Intelligence Division - retired).**

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**William A. Branigan (Section Chief, Espionage Section, Domestic Intelligence Division - current employee).**

**Elbert T. Turner, W. Marvin Gheesling, Lambert L. Anderson, and Charles D. Brennan (Supervisory Special Agents who were responsible for various aspects of the investigation and/or reporting responsibilities. Anderson is a current employee, whereas the other three are retired.)**

With the exceptions of Sullivan and Turner, all of the aforementioned advised that they had no knowledge whatsoever of Oswald's visit and the leaving of a note.

With regard to Elbert T. Turner, following the recent publicity concerning the Oswald visit and note, he recalled that while he did not remember any threatening note by Oswald he did have a vague recollection that Oswald had complained to the Dallas Office concerning inquiries made about his wife. According to Turner, he believed he received this knowledge from reviewing some communication in the Bureau file and has no recollection of discussing this Oswald complaint with anyone. Mr. Turner said he is reasonably sure that his recollection of Oswald's complaint to the Dallas Office was not based on seeing the results of SA Hosty's interview of Oswald on November 22, 1963, at the Dallas Police Department.

Based on the initial interview with Mr. Turner and his recollection, he was reinterviewed and exhibited a copy of a letter dated November 9, 1963, written by Lee H. Oswald to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., which letter reads in part as follows:

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation is not now interested in my activities in the progressive organization 'Fair Play For Cuba Committee', of which I was secretary in New Orleans (state Louisiana) since I no longer reside in that state. However, the F.B.I. has visited us here in Dallas, Texas, on November 1st. Agent James P. Hasty warned me that if I engaged in F.P.C.C. activities in Texas the F.B.I. will again take an 'interest' in me.

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"This agent also 'suggested to Marina Nichilayeva that she could remain in the United States under F.B.I. 'protection', that is, she could defect from the Soviet Union, of course, I and my wife strongly protested these tactics by the notorious F.B.I."

After reviewing this particular Oswald letter, Turner stated while he cannot be absolutely certain that this particular communication is the material he thought he had seen in the Bureau file he does now recall having seen this particular letter in the file and believes it was most likely the communication that he referred to when he was initially interviewed. (It is noted that full details concerning this particular Oswald letter were made available to and published in the Warren Commission report.)

With regard to Mr. Sullivan, telephonic arrangements were made on September 12, 1975, to interview him on the following Tuesday at his residence in New Hampshire. He subsequently advised on September 15, 1975, that he had conflicting schedules and wondered if our questions could be submitted through our Boston Office and he would then respond to them. During this discussion he agreed, however, to meet with Bureau representatives on the morning of September 16, 1975. He refused to sign an Interrogation; Advice of Rights form and also refused to be placed under oath. However, upon arrival of the Inspector he made available a three-page typed statement concerning this matter. Among other things, Mr. Sullivan in his statement noted that on one occasion during a conversation with Mr. Shanklin the latter mentioned that he had internal personnel problems in the Oswald case because one of his Agents (the name was not given to Sullivan or if so he has forgotten) had received while Oswald was alive a threatening letter from him because of the Agent's investigation of Oswald. According to Sullivan, he raised a question as to the details and Shanklin seemed disinclined to discuss it other than to say he was handling it as a personnel problem with Mr. J. P. Mohr. He advised he did not press the matter and they went on to other topics. Further, no mention was made of anything being destroyed.

Continuing, Mr. Sullivan advised that in another later conversation Mr. Shanklin mentioned to him that Director J. Edgar Hoover was furious at one of his Agents, James Hosty, and was going to give



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him a transfer out of Dallas. When he inquired why Shanklin replied that Mr. Hoover did not like the way Mr. Hosty had handled his part of the Oswald investigation, it was then Mr. Shanklin told Sullivan that it was Hosty who had received the threatening message from Oswald before the assassination. He stated that Shanklin did not mention that any message had been destroyed.

Mr. Sullivan, at the Inspector's request, added an addendum to his statement noting that the conversation he had with Shanklin concerning one of his Agents who had received a threatening message from Oswald occurred subsequent to the assassination. He further stated that at no time was he present or did he have any knowledge whatsoever of the identities of anyone who made a decision to destroy an alleged threatening note delivered by Oswald to the Dallas FBI Office.

James H. Gale, Assistant Director of the Inspection Division at the time of the assassination, conducted two internal inquiries concerning the Bureau's investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination. In view of this, Mr. Gale was interviewed. He advised that he had no knowledge of the Oswald visit until he read about it in recent newspaper articles. He recalls that a few days following the assassination and it may have been the following Monday, which he knew was a holiday, he was called to the office at the instruction of Mr. Hoover. He said he met with Mr. Hoover and former Associate Director Clyde A. Tolson in Mr. Hoover's office for approximately two hours. During that period of time Mr. Hoover instructed Mr. Gale to conduct a thorough inquiry as to the Bureau's handling of the Oswald case. He recalls Mr. Hoover stating that in his opinion there probably would be a Presidential commission which would review the Bureau's handling of this matter and he wanted to be certain that it had been properly handled. If on the contrary there were shortcomings and delinquencies Mr. Gale was instructed to thoroughly report same and in fact Mr. Hoover specifically stated "Leave no stone unturned and let the chips fall where they may." He also stated, "This is undoubtedly the most important responsibility I have given you since you have been in the FBI." According to Mr. Gale, Mr. Hoover reiterated this a number of times during the interview with emphasis.

James P. Hosty was reinterviewed on September 22, 1975. Hosty stated that his best recollection is that the note left by Oswald

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was in the nature of a complaint, complaining about Hosty having interviewed Oswald's wife. He stated that he recalls it said, "If you have anything you want to learn about me come talk to me directly," and that the note concluded, "If you don't cease bothering my wife, I will take appropriate action and report this to proper authorities." He doesn't recall a signature and doesn't recall Oswald's wife's name being mentioned. He still maintains that at the time he received the note he thought it was from a prior subject, Jimmy George Robinson, but realizes, "how stupid such an assumption was on my part" when advised that his interview with Robinson took place in June, 1963.

According to Hosty, about an hour following his interview of Oswald on the day of the assassination he received a message at the police department to return to the Dallas Office. Upon reporting to Mr. Shanklin's office he recalls Mr. Shanklin and Mr. Howe being present. They had Hosty's workbox in their possession and either Shanklin or Howe showed him the note from Oswald and asked what the note was all about. He then explained his previous interview of Mrs. Paine and Oswald's wife at the Paine residence on November 1, 1963, and the vehement protest that Oswald had made to him during the interview on November 22, 1963.

After explaining this to Mr. Shanklin, he instructed him to set forth in memorandum form the information which he had orally explained, making specific reference to the note. He stated he dictated this memorandum as instructed to Miss Martha Connally (now Martha Campbell) and that the memorandum was addressed to the SAC under the caption "Lee Harvey Oswald, aka; IS - R - Cuba." He stated he did not have the note from Oswald in his possession when he dictated this memorandum, it having been left with Mr. Shanklin. He said the memorandum when typed was an original and one copy and was possibly three or four pages in length. He said he remained in the office while Miss Connally transcribed his dictation and when it was completed carried the memorandum to Mr. Shanklin and it was probably about 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. He handed this memorandum to Mr. Shanklin and recalls no pertinent comment made at that time.

According to Hosty, nothing further occurred concerning this memorandum and the Oswald note until Sunday, November 24, 1963. He said he was on duty in the office on that date handling various duties

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when he learned that Oswald had been shot and later learned that he had died. Approximately two hours later he received word from Mr. Howe that Mr. Shanklin wanted to talk to both of them and they proceeded to Mr. Shanklin's office. On entering Mr. Shanklin stated "Oswald is dead now. There will be no trial." He then handed Hosty his memorandum of November 22, 1963, with the note from Oswald attached and told him to get rid of it. He claims the memorandum had not been block stamped or serialized. He tore up both copies of the memorandum and the note in the presence of Shanklin and Howe and threw them in the wastepaper basket in Mr. Shanklin's office. He advised that Mr. Shanklin then said "Get rid of it, get it out of here." He said he then took the torn pieces out of the wastepaper basket, left Mr. Shanklin's office, went to the men's wash room and flushed the scraps of paper down the commode. He said that no one was with him when he did this.

Mr. Hosty also advised that on November 23, 1963, he interviewed Ruth Paine and during this interview she made available to Hosty what appeared to be a rough draft handwritten letter prepared by Oswald and addressed to the Soviet Embassy at Washington, D. C. He said that on the following Monday or Tuesday, November 25 or 26, 1963, in preparation to dictate the results of his interview with Mrs. Paine he was not sure how to report Oswald's rough draft letter so he went to discuss the matter with Mr. Shanklin. He said he told Mr. Shanklin he had a letter from Oswald which mentioned Hosty's name and Shanklin became highly excited and agitated and started screaming at him, stating "I thought I told you to get rid of that letter. Get rid of it." He realized that Mr. Shanklin had been under extreme pressure, possibly verging on a nervous breakdown and decided not to discuss the matter with him further and left. On leaving Mr. Shanklin's office he met SA Bardwell D. Odum who had apparently overheard Mr. Shanklin yelling at him and inquired as to what the problem was. He claims he then told Odum what had transpired and at that point, according to Hosty, Odum confided in him that on late Saturday night, November 23, or the early morning hours of the 24th, 1963, he, Odum, had been sent by Mr. Shanklin to interview Mrs. Paine in order to verify Hosty's story as to his prior interview of Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald on November 1, 1963, and to determine if he had in any way mistreated any of these individuals.

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According to Hosty, Odum told him that Mrs. Paine had advised him that she had given Hosty Oswald's rough draft letter to the Russian Embassy but had retained a copy of the rough draft that she had made in her own handwriting. Odum told her that she should give him the rough draft which she did. Odum said that he took this rough draft to Mr. Shanklin sometime on the 24th or 25th of November and told Mr. Shanklin about it and that Mr. Shanklin told Odum "I thought I told Hosty to get rid of that note," and according to Odum Mr. Shanklin became hysterical.

Hosty advised that at a later date the rough draft which he had obtained from Mrs. Paine was forwarded to the Bureau and that following submission of it to FBI Headquarters Mr. Shanklin said to him that he apparently had misunderstood Hosty about the rough draft of the letter and again asked Hosty if he had gotten rid of the earlier letter by Oswald as instructed by Shanklin and Hosty assured him that he had.

On September 24, 1975, a review of the files of the Dallas Office verified that SA Hosty had interviewed Mrs. Paine on November 23, 1963, and he prepared an exhibit envelope on that same day and placed in the appropriate file the rough draft letter to the Soviet Embassy prepared by Oswald and referred to above. This particular specimen of Oswald's handwriting was forwarded to the FBI Laboratory by Dallas airtel dated January 23, 1964. The Dallas files also verify that on November 24, 1963, SA Odum did interview Mrs. Paine and on that same date prepared an exhibit envelope for the file and included therein a copy of a letter he received from Mrs. Paine. This exhibit was returned to Mrs. Paine on April 28, 1964.

Martha Ann Campbell, nee Connally, was reinterviewed September 23, 1975. Mrs. Campbell was exhibited that portion of the affidavit furnished by Hosty on September 22, 1975, as it relates to his dictation of a memorandum to then Miss Connally. She advised that she had no recollection of SA Hosty dictating such a memorandum. She said he may have but at this time she simply cannot recall it.

Former SA Bardwell D. Odum was interviewed on September 24, 1975. He advised that until he read recent newspaper publicity he had

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never heard any reference made to a note left by Oswald for Hosty or that Oswald had ever been in the Dallas Office of the FBI. That portion of Hosty's statement of September 22, 1975, dealing with Mr. Odum was read to him. Mr. Odum stated that he recalled obtaining a note in Mrs. Paine's handwriting which was a copy of something she had already turned over to the FBI and thinks it is the same note that Hosty's statement talks about. However, Odum stated he did not make any statement to Mr. Hosty at any time that Mr. Shanklin had ever said anything to Mr. Odum about destroying anything or telling Hosty or anyone else to destroy anything. He stated that any statement by an Agent of the FBI pertaining to the destruction of anything which might be considered evidence would be a matter which would be so unusual that he would not forget it. Moreover, Odum advised that he does not recall ever specifically being sent by Mr. Shanklin to interview Mrs. Paine except on one occasion when Mr. Shanklin stated go back out there and be sure we don't miss anything.

As to interviewing Mrs. Paine on a late Saturday evening or early morning hours of the following day, he does not recall ever making a visit to Mrs. Paine's house at "such an ungodly hour."

Odum also advised that approximately three weeks ago he received a long-distance telephone call from Ruth Paine, who is now living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She asked Odum if they had ever talked about Oswald being in the Dallas Office of the FBI and he replied that he could not recall any such conversation. She stated she was glad to hear him say that because she had been called by a newspaper reporter who asked her about Oswald being in the FBI office. She told Odum she informed the reporter that she had never heard about him being in the office and the reporter then read that portion of her testimony before the Warren Commission wherein she advised that Oswald had claimed he had been there but that she later found out it was not true. He said that her reaction to this was it sounded like something she might have said although she still had no recollection of the event itself. She told Odum that the reporter asked her how she had checked to find out that the claim of Oswald was a lie and told Odum that since he was her primary contact at that time she felt that if she had checked it would have been with Odum.

Ruth Paine was telephonically contacted on September 25, 1975. She advised of her telephonic contact with both the newspaper

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reporter and former SA Odum. She stated the purpose in calling Odum was to alert him that she had received a call from a reporter. She advised that to the best of her recollection Oswald visited Marina at Mrs. Paine's apartment the weekend of November 8, and she believes that it was on this weekend that Oswald told her he had visited the Dallas Office of the FBI and was upset concerning the visit the prior week by SA Hosty to the Paine residence. She stated she does not recall anyone specifically telling her but she learned later on that Oswald had not gone to the Dallas Office of the FBI and it only came to her attention when the newspaper man read her testimony before the Warren Commission to her. Her only explanation was that prior to testifying before the Commission she had been in contact with SA Odum a number of times and it was her thought that possibly Odum had told her that Oswald had never gone to the FBI office. She stated that Odum recently told her he never knew that Oswald had come to the Dallas Office.

Mr. Shanklin was reinterviewed on September 24, 1975. He was allowed to review the four affidavits previously furnished by Howe, the two affidavits furnished by Hosty and the affidavits of Ural Horton of July 23, 1975, and of Marian F. Roberts of September 6, 1975, as well as the FD-302 concerning the interview of William C. Sullivan. He categorically denied having any knowledge or recollection of Howe ever bringing the matters he mentioned to Shanklin's attention either before or after the assassination. He also had no independent knowledge of Hosty ever discussing with him Oswald being in the office or leaving of a note or telling him to type up a memorandum and later telling him to destroy it. He does remember a conversation with Ural Horton concerning Hosty. He recalls that he mentioned to Horton that he had seen Hosty a month or two previously and Hosty was still upset over what Hosty claimed to be unjust criticism of his handling of the Oswald case. He said that he does not personally recall Horton mentioning a note and not knowing anything about it. As he recalled it was just a general statement as to whether Hosty was a well-balanced Agent.

Concerning Sullivan's comments, Mr. Shanklin stated that he is completely at a loss to understand any comments Sullivan made concerning their conversation regarding any note received from Oswald. He said he did discuss the Oswald investigation on a number of occasions

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with Sullivan and certainly Hosty's name came up, particularly in connection with the allegation that Oswald was an FBI informant. He also notes that on a number of occasions he may have discussed disciplinary action against Hosty and other Agents with Sullivan and certainly with John P. Mohr but categorically denied that there was any such comment made as it relates to a note. Shanklin pointed out that he had no knowledge of the receipt of such a letter and therefore never discussed same with any Bureau official. He also denies having any knowledge of a meeting which allegedly transpired for the purpose of making a decision as to whether the note should be destroyed.

Mr. Shanklin in his statement noted that he remained on duty at the Dallas Office from the day of the assassination until approximately 11:00 p.m., on November 23, without sleep or rest. When he went home on that date to get some rest it was not possible and he returned to the office at approximately 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, November 25, 1963. From that time until some ten days after, the only rest he received was approximately four hours per day at a nearby hotel. Mr. Shanklin desired to point this out for the purpose of showing the conditions that existed in connection with the assassination, the killing of Oswald, and all of the subsequent investigations and therefore by no stretch of the imagination could he remember each and every telephone call, teletype, or conversation that transpired during this extended period of time.

It should be noted that on September 2, 1975, Tom Johnson, publisher of the Dallas "Times Herald" told SAC Theodore L. Gunderson of the Dallas Office that he was informed that the secretary who was the recipient of Oswald's letter had mentioned the note to a friend and that this friend subsequently wrote a letter to Mr. Shanklin "some time back" asking Mr. Shanklin about the disposition of Oswald's note. Mr. Johnson asked for confirmation of this information and was informed that beyond Mr. Kelley's original press release no comment could be made. Mr. Shanklin in his statement advised he never received such a letter.

As previously noted on page 7, SA Gemberling was not available for interview in view of the heart attack he had suffered on August 2, 1975. By letter of September 16, 1975, from Howard E. Heyer, M. D.,



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to the SAC in Dallas, Dr. Heyer advised that he would advise against Gemberling being put under any undue stress or strain, physical or mental, for at least another month and at that time will try to decide what future activities would be advisable.

As noted previously, Howe was reinterviewed September 8, 1975, at Washington, D. C. Following his return to his office of assignment, San Diego, he mailed a note postmarked September 14, 1975. In substance he advised that he still cannot recall many things concerning this matter but notes the following. He claims that it was after the assassination of President Kennedy and the arrest of Oswald as the probable assassin that he first knew of Fenner's contention that an individual who had been to the Dallas Office sometime previously and had left a note for Hosty had been Oswald. He claims he became aware of this information from Fenner herself, either directly or to someone else within his hearing. He advised that he surmised that the note might have or must have had in it some mention of the name Marina or Oswald. He claimed that he now clearly knows without qualification when he found the note he associated it not with the Oswald case as such but rather with the note Fenner had been talking about. Accordingly, he states as follows, "I find it necessary to say there well might not have been anything in the note itself to identify it with Oswald or any other such individual."

Upon your review of this memorandum and its enclosure it would be appreciated if we could have further discussion concerning this entire matter.

Attached is an index advising the page location for the sworn statements and where other material can be located.

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1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division (Enclosure)

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