

For King writing file, copy page 1 attached clips.

The Dallas Times Herald, of conservative ownership, is hardly anti-Hoover or anti-FBI. Its description of the "siege mentality" within the FBI, particularly of Hoover, was in a December 8, 1977 story expressed by Washington correspondent Bob Dudney in those words in his account of the long-withheld records relating to the John Kennedy assassination.

(Use marked parts.)

Here are the FBI's own records that reflect the accuracy of my reporting of a dozen years earlier, that the FBI moved in and took control of the investigation from local authority. It also confirms that Hoover and his underlings would and did do anything while "wildly fighting off criticism of the Bureau," worried "to the point of paranoia" and engaging in "heavy-handed efforts to discredit those" whose comments it did not like.

With Dallas Chief of Police Jesse Curry ^{FBI and Hoover anger comes from Curry's having} ~~the actuality is that he said~~ anything and that it was taken as criticism of the FBI. The actuality is that after Curry was threatened and terrorized it turns out that ^{threats} ~~Hoover~~ Hoover's anger and the ~~acts~~ of his subordinates were over truthful comment by Curry. Within a short while Hoover personally disciplined 17 agents, including three fairly high in FBI Headquarters, for alleged failings of precisely the kind Curry mentioned.

I also wrote critically of the FBI. I also was the victim of its "heavy-handed efforts" at discrediting."

Follow with quotes

FBI's image bitter issue in JFK probe

Dallas Times-Herald
By BOB DUDNEY 12/4/77

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Dallas police charges that the FBI held back information about Lee Harvey Oswald so enraged J. Edgar Hoover that he ordered the Dallas FBI to demand retraction every half hour until the police chief did so.

The former FBI director urgently dispatched an agent to Mexico City to "ex-

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plode" information about Oswald from the American ambassador there because it conflicted with FBI material and he feared the envoy might some day publicly accuse the agency of incompetence.

Even John McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was accused of "vicious and underhanded" dealings with Hoover's FBI and high bureau officials moved to confront him before he "gets any more ideas" about questioning the FBI's capabilities.

Perhaps more vividly than anything else, the picture which emerges from 40,001 pages released Wednesday from the FBI's file on President Kennedy's assassination is that of a frantic, even desperate Hoover wildly fighting off criticism of the bureau in the tumultuous days following the slaying in Dallas.

The files, part of the bureau's raw work product in the massive investigation, reveals an FBI director concerned almost to the point of paranoia about the creation of a presidential commission usurping the FBI role, as well as heavy-handed efforts to discredit those who doubted its integrity. No one — not even Robert F. Kennedy — was immune from Hoover's bitter defense of his agency.

There appeared to be little in the newly released material that would call into question the conclusion of the War-

See FBI CRITICIZED on Page 18

Highlights of FBI assassination files

- FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover seemed almost as preoccupied with protecting the FBI's image as solving and investigating the assassination.

- Hoover was certain within hours that Lee Harvey Oswald had shot President Kennedy, but he insisted to President Lyndon Johnson and aides that the possibility of conspiracy not be discounted too quickly.

- Hoover fought unsuccessfully against the formation of a special presidential commission, wanting the FBI to handle the probe exclusively.

- Both internal investigations within the Dallas Police Department and scores of FBI interviews indicated that Jack Ruby gained entrance to the police basement (where he shot Oswald Nov. 24, 1963) because of a "series of unfortunate coincidences" and was unaided.

- Hoover strongly ordered Dallas FBI agent James Hosty to be muzzled from discussing the case after a Dallas story quoted Hosty as saying the bureau knew of Oswald's "capability." Hosty was later censured and transferred.

- Hoover told his Dallas agents to "take charge" of the investigation because perhaps the Dallas police might not "handle it properly."

Continued from Page One
ren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the President on Nov. 22, 1963. Indeed, the material is a graphic illustration of a consuming investigation of the murder by the entire FBI apparatus.

But the files are replete with signs of deep anxiety at FBI headquarters when it learned within hours of the presi-

dent's death that his presumed assassin was a former defector to Russia listed in the bureau's own internal security files. Oswald also was known to work in the Texas School Book Depository along the route of Kennedy's motorcade.

Hoover's worst fears that the FBI would be blamed for allowing a pro-Communist like Oswald within striking distance of Kennedy were soon realized when Police Chief Jesse Curry the morning after the assassination told reporters about the FBI knowledge of Oswald.

According to an FBI memo, Curry said the FBI had recently interviewed Oswald, that he had been under surveillance for some time and that the Dallas Police Department had never been informed of his presence in the city, despite the FBI's normal tendency to notify the police of "subversives."

"The Director was immediately advised of these allegations," the Nov. 23, 1963 memo said. "Special Agent-in-charge (J. Gordon) Shanklin was . . . instructed to contact Chief Curry and set him straight regarding these allegations." Shanklin was ordered to tell Curry "to get back on television, and should also inform the wire services, immediately of the falsity of his statements."

Cartha D. DeLoach, author of the memo and one of Hoover's top lieutenants, said Shanklin immediately called Curry and convinced him to retract, but "I told Shanklin that regardless of Curry's statements if Curry did not follow through he should contact Curry again within thirty minutes."

At the time of the killing, Agent James Hosty had not interviewed Oswald, but was trying to locate him. Neither did the FBI have him under surveillance, although since his return from Russia, Oswald had been contacted infrequently by the FBI.

The Dallas police first learned of the FBI's knowledge from Hosty when he arrived at police headquarters to question Oswald — a matter of which Shanklin was either unaware or unwilling to tell his superiors in Washington.

"I asked (Shanklin) why Chief Curry would make such stupid statements," DeLoach wrote in his memo. "Shanklin stated Curry was usually very cooperative, a very good friend of the FBI, but did not think very fast and obviously made the statements without giving thought to repercussions."

Hoover's grudge against Curry was set out more explicitly in a February 5, 1964 memorandum of his conversation with then-Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach in which he complained that the FBI was being unfairly blamed for leaks to the press.

"I stated we identified (pieces of evidence) . . . and the chief then went on TV and radio and reported what we found," Hoover fumed. "I stated I told (Shanklin) to tell the chief I wanted him to shut up.

"Of course, the chief could have ig-

nored me, but nevertheless, I thought he was doing a great deal of harm, but the chief did shut up and he never appeared on TV or radio again; but the harm had been done because certain members of (the Warren Commission) thought the material was leaked out by the FBI."

Another memo written at headquarters harshly criticized Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and Dallas Police Capt. Will Fritz, the chief homicide investigator, for making "irresponsible" statements to the press almost daily about what the FBI knew of Oswald's background.

So towering was Hoover's rage at such suggestions that when he learned of Hosty's statements at the police department he fired off an urgent message demanding that Hosty be silenced.

"Tell Dallas to tell Hosty to keep his mouth shut," Hoover said in a handwritten note. "He has already done irreparable harm." Hosty and 17 other FBI agents were censured by Hoover some months later and were quietly reassigned to other field offices.

The FBI's sensitivity to the involvement of other government agencies in the assassination probe is reflected in another memo circulated from headquarters which concerned then-Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr.

Carr was conducting a state court of inquiry into the assassination and had formally requested a meeting with Hoover to discuss the FBI's findings so far. The FBI acutely noted, according to the memo, that all Carr wanted was to have his photograph taken with Hoover for his use in a political campaign the next year.

Hoover's resentment of intrusion into the FBI domain also extended to the top American diplomat in Mexico City, Ambassador Thomas Mann, who in the first week after the assassination sent the director an apparently provocative cable about Oswald's activities there.

Oswald's travels to Mexico City in late September and early October 1963, where he visited the Soviet Embassy and Cuban consulate, were discovered within days of the shooting and aroused deep fears that the accused assassin had perhaps conspired with foreign agents.

The substance of Mann's cable was not disclosed. It is known, however, the CIA had been informed by an agent of a Latin American nation that he had overheard Oswald discussing the assassination within the Cuban consulate and saw him receive \$6,500 in currency.

The agent later admitted he fabricated the story when he failed a polygraph examination.

Apparently convinced the story was bogus, Hoover nevertheless decided to send an agent to Mexico City because Mann "may be one of those pseudo-investigators, a Sherlock Holmes, but he has made a lot of statements which, if true, throw an entirely different light on the whole picture."

"Regardless of what (our) report shows, with all the details given, if we haven't gone into them and exploded them, the Ambassador may some day

decide to write a book and show what he notified this government of and no action was taken," Hoover wrote in the Nov. 27 memo.

A subsequent FBI memo the same day noted that Hoover "is very much concerned" about the ambassador's cable and wanted to immediately "explode

or prove this situation completely."

The commission later determined that Oswald visited the Soviet and Cuban stations in an effort to obtain travel visas to Cuba and that his contact there were unrelated to any conspiracy in the president's assassination.

Perhaps the most baffling example of the FBI bunker mentality at the time concerned the bureau's relations with the CIA, an agency with which Hoover had quarreled for years but which became deeply involved in the investigation because of Oswald's foreign travels.

McCone, the CIA director, had called the top FBI official personally "to be sure I am satisfied the CIA is giving all the help they possibly can," Hoover wrote on Nov. 26, 1963. "I assured Mr. McCone we had the very best support we could possibly expect from the CIA."

But less than a month later the highest levels of FBI leadership had become convinced that McCone himself was spreading stories to newspaper columnist Drew Pearson about the FBI's failure to properly investigate the \$6,500 Mexico City payoff allegation.

"John McCone has attacked the bureau in a vicious and underhanded manner characterized with sheer dishonesty," a Dec. 19, 1963, memo from assistant director D.J. Brennan said. "If the facts are true (that McCone was leaking information), we can safely assume that McCone will continue such tactics to the point of seriously jeopardizing bureau prestige and reputation."

Noting "there is a way of putting a stop to this," the memo suggested McCone be directly confronted with the issue and strongly reminded "that the story regarding Oswald's receipt of money in Mexico City was completely discredited," as his own agency was aware.

"He will certainly know where he stands, will undoubtedly have a profound respect for our capabilities to be

informed, and he certainly will bear all of this in mind in the event he gets any ideas of making similar statements in the future," the memo concluded.

There is apparently no further mention of whether FBI officials ever met with the CIA director.

While Hoover's determination to take control of the unfolding assassination investigation and vindicate the agency was apparent even from the first, the newly released files give vivid insights into the tenacity with which he sought to wrest the case away from local authorities.

In a teletype forwarded to Shanklin, the Dallas FBI head, within hours of the slaying, one of Hoover's top assistants instructed: "Be sure and not assume that the police are going to handle

this properly; that we must conduct a vigorous and thorough investigation and come up with an answer."

And while the Secret Service had the primary responsibility for the president's protection and was deeply concerned about its own image, a memo from the agency's top officer, James Rowley, acknowledged within days that the FBI was "completely handling" the case.

Due primarily to the cloud cast over the FBI by the early events of the assassination many government officials were calling for establishment of an independent body of private citizens to review and evaluate the conclusions of the FBI about the slaying.

The suggestion that the FBI was incapable or was not to be trusted infuriated Hoover and the top echelon of bureau officials, and minions of agency brass were dispatched to head off such a development.

Fearful that the Washington Post was considering an editorial endorsement of the idea, DeLoach met privately with Managing Editor Al Friendly in a Byzantine effort to persuade him to withhold such an article.

"I told Friendly I had just conferred with the director regarding this matter and wanted him to know that such an editorial... would merely 'muddy the waters' and would create further confusion and hysteria," DeLoach reported in a Nov. 25 memo.

"I told him Mr. Hoover was personally supervising these investigations... I mentioned that Mr. Hoover had seen to it that the best-trained men in the FBI were on these investigations."

Friendly, according to the memo, said he had no objection to withholding the editorial as long as there was "some outstanding group... affirming and issuing the FBI report rather than the attorney general or that 'boob' (Waggoner Carr) who calls himself the Attorney General of Texas."

The overture ended, however, with Friendly saying he could not make a commitment for the Post. DeLoach concluded that the problem was the top editor, Russ Wiggins, "who cannot be trusted."

Yet the bureau at times appeared to question even those who supported the FBI's opposition to what eventually became the Warren Commission.

A Nov. 27 memorandum from FBI official C.A. Evan noted that presidential adviser Abe Fortas had counseled Lyndon B. Johnson against forming an independent review body. His argument was nearly identical to the FBI's: a commis-



— AP Photo
DIGGING BEGINS — Researcher goes through stack of documents among newly released FBI files on the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

sion would reflect badly on the agency and arouse even greater fears and suspicions about the assassination.

"Fortas, of course, is no friend of the bureau and there would be appear to be some obvious underhanded motive in his using us in his arguments..." the memo declared. Scrawled beneath was a handwritten response from an unidentified FBI reader: "Certainly something sinister here."

Hoover eventually was motivated to write a stern message even to Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, the slain president's brother and Hoover's nominal superior. The Dec. 17 letter showed thinly veiled contempt for Kennedy's decision to send him criticism of the bureau's handling of the case.

The item in question was a paper entitled "Seeds of Doubt: Some Questions about the President's Assassination" which had been published in a southern newspaper. It stated that no investigation by the FBI and the Dallas police "can be accepted with confidence."

"For your information," Hoover began his Dec. 17 letter to Kennedy, FBI files contained information about the paper's two authors which exposed their sympathies with groups such as the Socialist Workers Party.

"The paper entitled, 'Seeds of Doubt: Some Questions about the President's Assassination'... is returned herewith," Hoover said. "As you know, the results of our investigation... been furnished to the Commission."

After the assassination Hoover received a large number of letters from the public, many of them critical of the FBI for what some perceived as lax handling of Oswald and failure to prevent the death of the president.

The 40,001-page disclosure indicates that the FBI answered many of them, trying to defend the agency's integrity and reputation. Regardless of their contents, however, each letter was reviewed and its author checked against FBI indices to determine whether any were listed, apparently to determine his sympathies toward the bureau.

In a memo prepared for the Justice Department less than two hours after Oswald's arrest, Hoover already appeared convinced the former defector was "very probably" the man responsible for the shooting at Dealey Plaza.

"I thought very probably we had in custody the man who killed the President in Dallas," Hoover said. "Lee Harvey Oswald spent some years in Russia, although he was born in America... tried unsuccessfully to renounce his American citizenship, and then came back here." He added that he would put Oswald in "the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

Less than three weeks later, however the FBI director was cautioning the Warren Commission against assuming that "Oswald was the only man" (

In another as-yet-unexplained matter, the files contained a heavily censored letter to Hoover from the FBI legal attaché office in Bern, Switzerland, dated Nov. 26, 1963, which referred to certain communications before the assassination.

The letter, marked "very urgent," mentioned in connection with the Oswald case a Sept. 30, 1963, FBI message to the CIA concerning an individual named Richard Thomas Gibson. A second reference was to "African Revolution" and was dated Oct. 11.

Texas inquiry halted by U.S. intervention

By ROY E. BODE

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department intervened to stop an investigation of President Kennedy's assassination by the Texas Attorney General's Office, files released by the FBI

Wednesday said.

A memo written by Asst. FBI Director Cartha D. DeLoach Dec. 6, 1963, said Asst. Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach had asked Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr and Leon Jaworski, who had been named special counsel to the state investigation, to halt their effort.

Carr agreed to withdraw his plans at least until the federal investigation was complete. They were never revived.

At the time, he was considering running for re-election in 1964.

The memo, released by the FBI as part of its massive file on the presidential assassination, does not make clear FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's objection to the state investigation. However, other documents indicate he was reluctant to share the FBI's investigative domain with any group — including a special presidential commission.

Carr told The Times Herald late Wednesday that he "combined efforts" with the federal government and the Warren Commission because the Texas inquiry did not have the authority or the credibility of a federal investigation.

"Leon Jaworski and I went to Washington and we went to Katzenbach's office," Carr said.

"As I recall Katzenbach was trying to get us an audience with Chief Justice (Earl) Warren, who had just been appointed to what later became the Warren Commission. He was not able to do it because Warren refused to see us unless I, as attorney general of Texas,

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JFK death probe in Texas aborted

Continued from Page One

would agree to drop any investigation in Texas of the case.

"I must assume he felt they could do a better job in Washington," Carr said. He said he did not think Warren feared that a Texas investigation would uncover things the federal government wanted kept quiet.

"I told him I was not going to give up under any circumstances my right to investigate."

Finally, Carr said, after he threatened to hold an "open public investigation," Warren agreed to meet with him.

"We met in Warren's office at the Supreme Court and worked out an arrangement between the federal government and Texas so we could work together on an investigation.

"At the time it seemed to me to be the right thing to do," Carr said. "I still think the Warren Commission was the best thing."

Carr said in the immediate days after the president's death the national and international press accused Texas of being responsible for the assassination.

"Since we (Texas) were under suspicion by the world, it made sense to me that we should join the federal investigation," Carr said. "Texas could only lead a very limited investigation. We needed federal subpoena powers to go into Mexico and Russia."

Carr said all the evidence available at the time of the investigation showed "(Lee Harvey) Oswald was the assassin and that he acted alone.

"I've seen no evidence since then to indicate otherwise," Carr said. "But, of course, the door is not closed."

Another report in the FBI files said Katzenbach told the agency Carr "would like very much" to see Hoover on Dec. 6 and noted that the Texan had political plans.

Carr said Wednesday he never met with Hoover concerning the Kennedy investigation.

The second report, a memo from DeLoach to Hoover's top aide, John Mohr, said, "Carr had no particular motive in mind other than to indicate to the press later on that he had discussed matters with the director.

"I told him (Katzenbach) I could see no percentage in the director's seeing Carr, that we were the investigative agency and that Carr's dealings should be with the department and the Presidential Commission," DeLoach continued.

He said Katzenbach told him "the President (Johnson) was most anxious to be given attention in Washington inasmuch as Carr was running for office next year.

"I told Katzenbach I knew this. However, I still felt that the director should not be injected into this matter," DeLoach wrote.

Katzenbach then agreed to attempt to persuade Carr not to try to see Hoover but DeLoach went ahead to recommend a perfunctory meeting.

At the end of the memo Hoover scrawled, "If he calls, I will see him."

Assassination files provided

Compiled from wire reports

WASHINGTON — Everyone who paid 10 cents a page for the FBI's 40,001-page file on the Kennedy assassination got pictures of strippers, diagrams of a city bus, a lot of blank pages and a Dallas street map, among other things.

For their \$4,000 they also got assassination theories from psychics, mediums, mind readers, gypsies, two drunken truck drivers and a man from Iowa who thought Lee Harvey Oswald was carrying out a post-hypnotic suggestion planted while he lived in the Soviet Union.

They found out Jack Ruby's car ashtray contained 12 cigarette butts, some with filters and some without and some with lipstick.

Included was a letter to J. Edgar Hoover from George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the American Nazi Party, listing the names and addresses of 27 Nazis in America he figured were capable of an "irrational wild act" like killing John F. Kennedy.

The section labeled "Polish Reaction to the Kennedy Assassination" looked like an ethnic joke. The page was blanked out.

On Oct. 8, 1962, Marina Oswald had her teeth cleaned and X-rayed at the Baylor College of dentistry for \$11. That was over a year before her husband killed Kennedy.

There was an investigation into a newspaper photo of a woman carrying a Kennedy sign in a 1960 political rally because the sign had "Ruby" written on it. The FBI located the woman, who said she had written her first name on the sign so she could retrieve it easily when she laid it down.

There were 13 pages of mostly photos of two strippers named Tammie True and Little Lynn who performed at Ruby's nightclub. But the photocopied pictures were hardly of Playboy magazine quality.

A letter was dug out of the Socialist Party's archives. It was from a 16-year-old schoolboy who had written years before asking for information about socialism for a school paper. His name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

Dozens of school children wrote the FBI asking for information about the Kennedy assassination for class projects. Each got an answer from Hoover, and the carbon of the letters put into FBI files indicated none of the kids had records with the FBI.

When a query came from the FBI in Buffalo that a gypsy in New York was said to have some information about the assassination, the New York agent in charge went to work and reported: "numerous gypsy tearooms contacted on 42nd Street and unable to identify gypsy set out in referenced teletype."

One thing kept secret the past 14 years was the specially bound "bus and taxi exhibits" — 16 pages of pictures and diagrams showing every angle of the two vehicles Oswald used for trans-

portation when he fled the Texas School Book Depository.

More than 1,300 pages were devoted to what might be called the "nut" file — apparently worthless leads investigated anyway.

The file includes such far-flung and unlikely suspects as a group of Jews in Winnipeg, Canada; the minister of the Church of the Firstborn of the Fullness of Times, and someone who signed a letter simply "Chicago housewife."

The FBI investigated a person who wanted to send a telegram to Andrei Gromyko; an anonymous telephone call the New York State Police got from Baton Rouge, La.; and an obscene letter sent to Marguerite Oswald, the assassin's mother, threatening "Us Nazis'll kill ya."

One man called the FBI and said he had stopped at a gas station in Scottsdale, Ariz., six months after the assassination and in a telephone book in a phone booth found "John Wilks Booth" and "John F. Kennedy" written on the front page. The middle name of the killer of Abraham Lincoln had been spelled incorrectly.

The FBI found the telephone book. Under Booth's name was written "115 Death Row." Under Kennedy's was written PXJ 00050, Arlington Cemetery — another incorrect spelling.

After questioning the owner of the gas station and others, the FBI concluded "no one had noticed any questionable persons in the telephone booth."

The French counter-intelligence service intercepted and turned over to the FBI a letter from a woman in Fort Worth writing to her Russian brother in France.

A woman from Chicago said Ruby approached her on Nov. 21 and offered her \$5,000 to drive him to Dallas.

There were four pages of pictures of Oswald's shoes, and 15 more of his shirts, sweaters and slacks. Hundreds of pages were devoted to pictures or diagrams of guns, bullets, and fingerprints.

Here are notes gleaned from the Kennedy assassination files:

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The FBI documents show Hoover was extremely concerned about news coverage of the investigation of the assassination. Many contacts between journalists and the FBI are detailed in the documents, from newsmen providing tips to the FBI to the FBI probing for a journalist's sources.

"I thought no one knew this outside of FBI," Hoover wrote on a copy of one news story dated Dec. 3, 1963. "Certainly someone is doing too much talking."

Hoover said in a memo three days after the assassination that President Lyndon B. Johnson was upset by a possible Washington Post editorial calling for a presidential commission to investigate the Kennedy assassination. The memo said Johnson had asked Hoover to try to stop publication of the editorial.

"He asked if I could dissuade the Post

from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper, but would get word as to what is being done," the Hoover memo said.

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Documents indicated that Hoover at first harbored some doubts that Oswald acted alone in the killing. Three weeks after the Nov. 22, 1963, murder, Hoover advised President Johnson he had some letters in which someone in Cuba had apparently encouraged Oswald to kill Kennedy, and persuaded Johnson not to release an early official finding that "Oswald was the only man."

Hoover, however, never doubted Oswald was the trigger man, and advised Johnson of that belief within hours of the shooting. He described Oswald on that occasion as "in the category of a nut and the extremist pro-Castro crowd."

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Doctors were initially "at a loss to explain" why they could not find a bullet in the body of the President, or a wound where a bullet had left the body, according to the official FBI report on the autopsy. But evidence turned up in Dallas while the autopsy was under way at Bethesda Naval Hospital explained the missing bullets, the report said.

The fact that no intact bullet was found in Kennedy's body has been used by assassination conspiracy advocates as evidence that there could have been a second assassin, since no bullet causing death could be traced to Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle.

X-rays of Kennedy's head taken at Bethesda during the autopsy showed approximately 40 particles of disintegrated bullet, but no exit wound for the remainder of the disintegrated bullet.

"Inasmuch as no complete bullet of any size could be located in the brain area and likewise no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body and inspection revealed no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets," the report said.

The report notes that a bullet had reportedly been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. When the doctors were informed that a bullet had been found in the Dallas hospital, they concluded it could have "worked its way back out" of Kennedy's body via the point of entry when cardiac massage had been performed.

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FBI agents said Oswald "frantically denied" shooting either Kennedy or Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippit, another victim that day, when officers questioned him prior to his own murder by Jack Ruby. The Warren Commission included extensive paraphrased recollections of what Oswald had told his captors, since no tape recordings or stenographic transcripts were kept. But those

The odd mix of information

reports had described the suspect as poised and even defiant rather than frantic.

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FBI agents said Ruby insisted "no one else was involved" when he shot Oswald on Nov. 24, and quoted Ruby as saying he had simply brooded over the Kennedy assassination "until he reached the point of insanity."

Ruby fired a single shot from his three-year-old pistol, fatally wounding Oswald, and turned to one of the police he liked to count as friends. "Somebody had to do it. You all couldn't do it," he told one officer.

"I hope I killed the S.O.B.," he told another.

In a nationwide search that followed, according to FBI documents, hundreds of scraps of information about Ruby's character and past came to light but none to contradict Ruby's own claim he acted alone and for purely emotional reasons.

Scores of times in the files on Ruby the sentence appears, "(Name of person interviewed) did not know Lee Harvey Oswald and has no knowledge of any connection between Ruby and Oswald."

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Hoover quickly issued orders telling agents to provide Dallas police all possible assistance in investigating the assassination and finding possible conspirators. He also issued a nationwide alert to "immediately establish whereabouts of bombing suspects, all known Klan and hate group members, known racial extremists and any other individuals who on the basis of information available in your files may possibly have been involved."

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Countless man-hours were devoted to tracing false leads in both the Kennedy and Oswald killings, and reports of these ran to more than 1,300 of the 40,000 pages released.

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Just 13 days before he killed President Kennedy, Oswald prodded the Soviet Embassy in Washington to expedite his and his wife's attempt to return to Russia.

This was buried in a summary of the embassy file which Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin turned over to the State Department. This file showed that as early as Feb. 17, 1963, Marina Oswald had inquired by mail of the Soviet Embassy how she could return to Russia. On Nov. 9, 1963, Oswald wrote the Soviet Embassy from Dallas, indicating he was increasingly anxious to have the necessary papers processed.

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An anonymous caller told the FBI 10 days after the assassination of Kennedy that the outlawed Irish Republican Army planned sending "a company" to Dallas "to commit mayhem on that city."

The FBI's Los Angeles office sent an urgent teletype message to Washington headquarters saying that a county detective captain had received the call from a man who said he had a brother in the IRA in Ireland.

"Caller said he received word from a relative in Ireland informing that the IRA will attempt to get a company of IRA members into the United States via Aer Lingus (Irish Airlines) and if unsuccessful by air, the members will arrive in the United States one by one for the purpose of going to Dallas, Texas, to commit mahem (sic) on that city."

The message said that the detective judged the caller "to be sane and well educated."

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In the aftermath of the assassination, American Nazi party commander George Lincoln Rockwell sent the FBI a list of names associated with his extremist organization as persons "to keep a careful watch on," according to FBI documents. Rockwell, himself the victim of an assassin in 1967, sent the letter to Hoover Nov. 27, 1963. Strongly denouncing the assassination, Rockwell nevertheless conceded that his "extreme political movement attracts irresponsible and lunatic elements who are not welcome, but who force themselves upon the movement and are very hard to get rid of."

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John F. Kennedy's last words may have been either "Get me to a hospital," or "My God, I've been hit," according to two different versions by the head Secret Service agent in Dallas on Nov. 23, 1963.

Roy Kellerman, assistant agent in charge of the White House detail and the ranking Secret Service agent that day, was riding next to the driver of the presidential car. He said he recalled the car had just traveled through a crowd of 250,000 people and he "breathed a sigh of relief" as they approached an underpass.

He heard a shot, "observed the President slump forward and heard him say 'Get me to a hospital.'"

In a separate interview Kellerman said he "distinctly and positively" heard Kennedy say, "My God, I've been hit."

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Oswald considered himself a Marxist when he was 16, before he joined the Marine Corps, and wrote to the Socialist party in New York asking for information.

A letter signed "Lee Oswald," sent from Fort Worth in 1956, turned up in the Socialist party files preserved at Duke University, Durham, N.C. It was brought to the FBI's attention during the probe of President Kennedy's assassination.

The FBI checked the authenticity of the letter and concluded it was written by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The handwritten letter said:

"Dear Sirs:

"I am 16 years of age and would like more information about your youth league. I would like to know if there is a branch in my area, how to join, etc. I am a Marxist, and have been studying socialist principles for well over 15 months.

I am very interested in your Y.P.S.L.

"Sincerely,

"Lee Oswald."

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One FBI memo said the Justice Department tried to get one of its own lawyers on the Warren Commission "so that we will know what is going on." A Dec. 6, 1963, memo written by FBI official Alan H. Belmont, while the presidential commission was being formed, quoted the deputy attorney general, Nicholas Katzenbach, as saying "if Warren Olney is appointed as counsel for the presidential commission, Katzenbach is going to try to get an attorney from the criminal division in with the commission, so that we will know what is going on."

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Oswald's address book, seized by the FBI after the assassination, contained a jumble of notes in English and Russian and addresses for the Soviet ambassador, several Cuban organizations, two American reporters in Moscow and the name of an FBI agent, James Hosty.

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A 1953 court-ordered psychiatric profile of 13-year-old Oswald found him to be seriously detached and withdrawn with delusions of power which could one day prove harmful.

The children's probate court of New York City ordered the examination because of Oswald's excessive absences from school.

The Oswald family moved from Texas to New York in 1952, and psychiatrists determined Lee "has not been able to make a New York adjustment." The family left New York "presumably" for New Orleans in 1954.

"The root of his difficulties," said the report, "seems to be his relationship with his mother (Marguerite Oswald) ... a rigid self-involved woman with strong ideas."

The report was made available to the FBI by the probate court.

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One woman wrote to the attorney general, Robert F. Kennedy, that his brother, the president, had been killed by "the highest echelon of the Syndicate, called 'The Members of the House of Ax.'" She said she knew this because "demons and werewolves" continually spoke to her in private.

Another letter writer from Albany, N.Y., said she had a dream two weeks prior to the assassination in which she saw the local newspaper with headlines of JFK's death and she just had to tell somebody about it.

'Coincidences' allowed Ruby to kill Oswald

Times Herald Washington Bureau

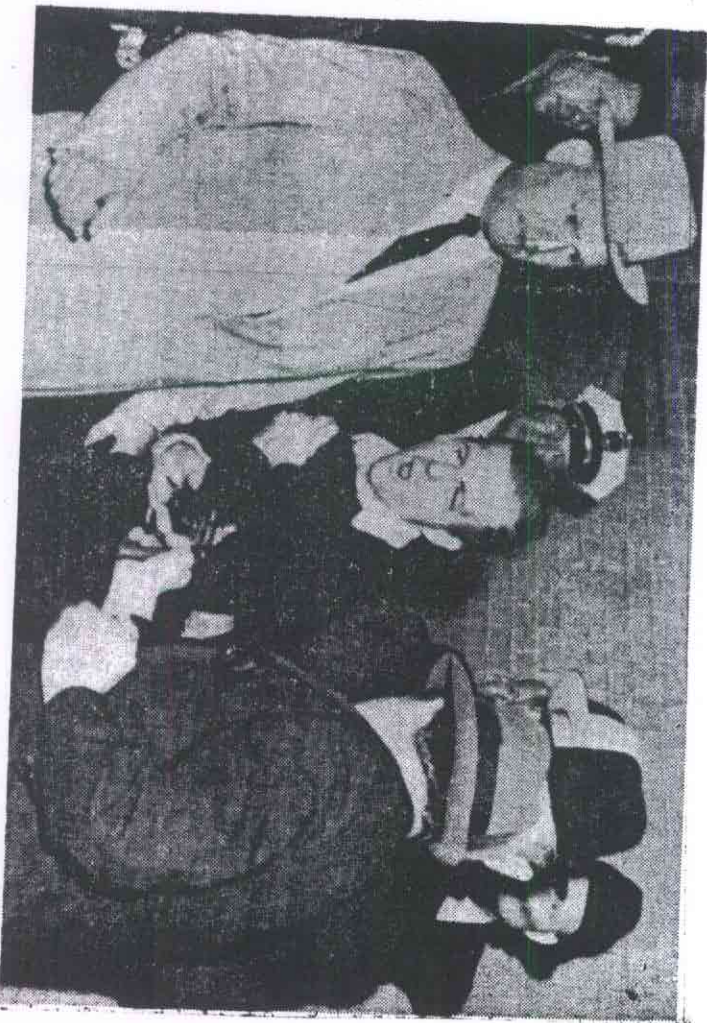
WASHINGTON — An internal investigation by the Dallas Police Department found that Jack Ruby was able to get into police headquarters to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald because of "a series of unfortunate coincidences," a memo in FBI files says.

"We are convinced that our investigation has established to a reasonable certainty that Jack Leon Ruby entered the basement from the Main Street ramp and that no collusion existed between him and any member of the press; that his entrance into the basement at this particular time was the result of a series of unfortunate coincidences which caused a momentary breakdown in the security measures adopted," the report to J.E. Curry, police chief at the time, concludes.

The report says Ruby told the detective who interviewed him that he didn't have a way planned to enter the building, but that he couldn't have timed his arrival "so perfect." He apparently slipped into the building when a policeman stepped outside to stop traffic for a moment, the report explained.

"Ruby was in the basement for a maximum of two minutes, with a strong possibility that it was only five to 10 seconds prior to the shooting..." the memo says.

The FBI, meanwhile, was investigating the possibility of "police involvement" in the shooting on its own.



Oswald is shot by Jack Ruby during his transfer to county jail

— ©1963, Dallas Times Herald

The documents show that scores of Dallas policemen were interviewed about their movements at police headquarters the morning Oswald was shot.

Each was questioned closely about any prior association with Ruby and all but a few claimed they had not known him.

News reporters who were present in the police headquarters basement at the time of the shooting were also carefully questioned about what they were doing that morning.

The Warren Commission concluded that Ruby entered the basement unaided.

Cites Oswald's alleged shot at him

Gen. Walker charges FBI coverup

By PAUL WEST
Staff Writer

Former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker of Dallas said Wednesday law enforcement authorities "covered up" Lee Harvey Oswald's attempt to kill him in 1963, seven months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

FBI records released Wednesday in Washington included an account by Oswald's widow, Marina, about the unsuccessful April 10, 1963, attempt on Walker's life.

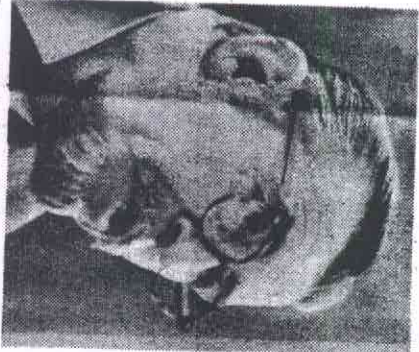
Commenting on release of the documents, Walker noted that FBI agents questioned Oswald several months after the shooting incident in which a rifle bullet barely missed the former Army leader as he worked on his income tax return at his Dallas home.

"I think they (the FBI) knew he did it," said Walker. "That's one of the biggest coverups."

Walker said he doubted that information would be released concerning the FBI's role in any alleged coverup.

"Not if, they can help it," he said.

"Oswald was known, there's no doubt



Former Maj. Gen. Walker ...
... 'FBI knew Oswald did it'

in my mind, to law enforcement authorities seven months before he killed Kennedy," said Walker. "Actually the Russians were using Oswald. They protected Oswald for seven months."
"Of course, it was not in the best in-

terests of the Warren Commission at the time to find that Oswald was the one that attempted to assassinate me," he added. "Because that makes Oswald the first known criminal to kill a president."

In 1964 testimony before the Warren Commission, Oswald's widow said her "crazy" husband admitted trying to kill Walker, calling him "a very bad man ... a fascist."

Walker said Wednesday he considers such statements from Oswald "an honor."

"I certainly have accomplished my purpose if he calls me a fascist, a Hitler or anything else," said the 68-year-old ultraconservative spokesman. "To get those words from that guy with his philosophy (is an honor)."

Walker, who disagrees with the Warren Commission conclusion that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald, believes Ruby was involved in the attempt on his (Walker's) life.

"I don't think anybody has proved otherwise," he said. "They wouldn't let my lawyer get to him (Ruby)."
Walker, currently on probation for a

1976 public lewdness charge, resigned his Army commission in 1961 after he was reprimanded for alleged political indoctrination of U.S. troops under his command in Germany.

A longtime speaker at rallies of the John Birch Society and other ultraconservative organizations, Walker in recent years has delivered his political messages through a weekly recorded telephone message and a signboard in the front yard of his Turtle Creek Boulevard home.

Walker was asked to comment on the release of 40,000 FBI records related to the Kennedy assassination and the accompanying upsurge in interest in the 1963 tragedy.

"I'm not hurting a bit," he replied. "Kennedy was assassinated. I wasn't. People deserve to know why he was assassinated, who by, what for and why."

"Nobody agrees with what they've been told, evidently about the Kennedy assassination," said Walker. "And I expect and suspect and consider it a necessity that the thing be haggled to a final conclusion."

First FBI memo on the assassination

Time 3:50 p 1

TO: MR. TOLSON
 FROM: A. H. Belmont
 SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
 DATE: 11/22/63
 cc: Belmont, Mohr, DeLoach, Rosen, Evans, McGowan

SAC Shanklin advised at 3:50 p.m. that the man arrested by the Dallas police is LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Shanklin said that Oswald is believed to have killed a police officer with a hand gun in the 300 block of East 10th Street, which is not too far from the building where the rifle was found. The police are questioning Oswald and have his gun.

Upon getting this name from the police, the Dallas office checked the files and found that Oswald is the subject of an Internal Security-Cuba case. This file shows that Oswald works in the Texas School Book Depository building, 411 Elm Street, which is the building where the rifle and the spent shells were found.

The file shows that three years ago Oswald left the U.S. and went to Russia. In Moscow he went to the American Embassy and tried to renounce his American citizenship. He returned to the US at New York City 6/13/62, and brought with him a Russian bride whom he married in Russia.

Agents have interviewed him twice regarding his stay in Russia and why he went to Russia, and whether he was given an assignment by the Russians and sent back to the US. He was completely uncooperative. He said he came back to the US because he wanted to; denied being given any assignment by the Russians; and said he went to Russia was his own business.

He has lived in Ft. Worth, Dallas, Texas, and is currently back in Dallas. He is employed by the Texas School Book Depository, which is the principal tenant and owner of the building at 411 Elm Street. He was arrested in New Orleans in 7/63 on charges of creating a disturbance by passing out leaflets on the street which were published by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He drinks, has a violent temper, and has beaten his wife, who has just recently had a baby.

Shanklin asked whether the files show Oswald has ever made a threat against the President or a public official. He said the files do not show this. He said the agents who interviewed him have the

AKB:CSH (7) *memo to file 11/22/63* *27/198* *NOT RECORDED* *UNREC* *DEC 5 1963*

impression he may be a mental case, as he withdraws within himself when being questioned.

Shanklin said that this information has been furnished to the Dallas PD and he has agents at the PD where Oswald is being questioned. He said the Secret Service is not at the PD. I told Shanklin to get this information to the Secret Service. I also told him to arrange for our agents who questioned Oswald to sit on the questioning of Oswald if they might be helpful to the police. He said the agent who handled the case is at the police station and will attempt to arrange this.

Shanklin said that Vice President Johnson was sworn in as President at 2:39 p.m., Dallas time, at Love Field, by US District Judge Sara T. Hughes, and that Johnson is accompanying the President's body back on the plane.

We are making a full file check on Oswald

Among the documents released by the FBI Wednesday was this memo sent from Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, within hours of the assassination of President Kennedy. The memo, from FBI Associate Director Clyde Tolson to Alan H. Belmont, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, details information provided by Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas office, about Lee Harvey Oswald, who had already been taken into custody.