



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas  
July 31, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

MARK LANE

With reference to appearances of Mark Lane at Theatre Four, 424 West Fifth Street, New York City, during which he played a tape recording of his alleged conversation with Mrs. Helen Louise Markham, of Dallas, Texas, indicating the killer of Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit might not have been Lee Harvey Oswald, and more particularly, his remarks that two of his investigators had contacted Mrs. Markham's 21-year-old son, James Markham, and had obtained information from him which could not be divulged at this time, the following inquiry was conducted by the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Dallas, Texas. It is also noted that Lane said in his appearances that following his investigators' contact with James Markham, the latter was arrested by the Dallas Police Department for burglary; that while in police custody he fell; and has been in critical condition in the Dallas City Jail Hospital.

Mrs. Helen Louise Markham contacted the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by telephone at 1:15 p.m., June 27, 1964, to state she resided at 328 1/2 East Ninth Street, Dallas, Texas; was an eye-witness to the shooting of Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit, and subsequently identified Lee Harvey Oswald as the killer. She stated that at about 11:00 a.m., on June 27, 1964, Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, accompanied by two men who claimed to be reporters from Philadelphia, came to her residence, and stated they wanted to talk with her. In order to get rid of them, she asked them to return later in the day.

She stated she was frightened and did not desire to talk with Mrs. Oswald and the two alleged reporters since she regarded Mrs. Oswald as a "mean appearing person."

- 10 - Bureau (100-409763)
- 2 - New York (100-117844)
- ② - Dallas (100-10970)  
(100-10461)

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Serrano       
 Index       
 File       
 Search     

100-10461-7355

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MARK LANE

On July 24, 1964, Mrs. Markham stated that shortly after the assassination of President Kennedy, while she was working as a waitress at the Eatwell Cafe in Dallas, Texas, she was called to the telephone, and the man on the telephone told her he was with the Dallas Police Department. She does not remember what name he gave her. He asked her a number of questions which she freely answered, stating she had been able to identify the man whom she later found out was Lee Harvey Oswald, as the killer of Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit.

Mrs. Markham stated that on July 23, 1964, she had been called to the United States Secret Service office in Dallas, Texas, where she had heard a tape recording of an interview she had with Mark Lane, and that, in fact, this was the interview she gave to the alleged police officer, by telephone, while employed at the Eatwell Cafe. She said that until she heard this tape recording she had never heard of Mark Lane, had no reason to believe the telephone call in question was from anyone other than a Dallas police official, and was never told that a tape recording was being made of the conversation. She also stated that there were introductory remarks on the tape, made by some woman, and that she, Mrs. Markham, had never talked with this woman.

She said that on June 27, 1964, two unkempt, "wicked" appearing men, came to her residence. They were carrying cameras and a tape recorder. They said they were reporters from Philadelphia and wanted to talk with her about the Oswald matter. She said she was afraid of them, refused to talk with them, and they left. Immediately thereafter, one of the men returned with Marguerite Oswald, who was highly agitated, and attempted to get Mrs. Markham to talk with them. She still refused. In an effort to get rid of them, she told them she was busy taking care of her grandchild, but would talk to them if they came back in the afternoon. The man attempted to give her some money to hire a baby sitter so she could talk with them, but she refused to take the money. Mrs. Oswald and the man then left.

MARK LANE

Mrs. Markham said her son, William Edward Markham, was at her residence when the above incident occurred; that when Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and the man left, William followed them downstairs and out to the street. Later, he told her he had met Mrs. Oswald, two men, and another woman in the vicinity of the Dallas Public Library on Marsalis Street in Dallas, Texas; had gotten into their car; and had talked with them about the Oswald matter and the shooting of Officer Tippit. Mrs. Markham said the only reason he gave for doing this was that he had nothing against Marguerite Oswald, and she was asking for his help.

Mrs. Markham said her son, William Edward Markham, was living in Norfolk, Virginia, at the time of the assassination and the shooting of Officer Tippit, and had no firsthand information concerning this matter. She said her other son, James Markham, was not at the house when the men and Marguerite Oswald called; knew nothing about their visit; and his arrest had no connection with this matter. She said several days later he was arrested by officers of the Dallas Police Department at her residence, for burglary; that at the time of the arrest he asked and was granted permission to go to the bathroom; and that while in the bathroom he jumped from the bathroom window, located on the second floor, to the ground below, injuring himself and requiring treatment at a hospital.

James Alfred Markham, Dallas County Jail, Dallas, Texas, advised on July 24, 1964, that his mother had told him of the contact with Marguerite Oswald and the two men who claimed to be reporters from Philadelphia, but that he had not been at his mother's house at the time; had not talked with them at any time; and had never talked with Marguerite Oswald or Mark Lane. He stated when he was arrested by officers of the Dallas Police Department, several days after the visit of the above-mentioned individuals with his mother, he had asked for and received permission from the arresting officers to use the bathroom in his mother's home; that when he got into the bathroom he opened the window and jumped out, falling approximately 24 feet to the pavement below, receiving head injuries. He said he was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, where he received treatment, and stayed for six and one half hours. He was then returned to jail.

MARK LANE

William Edward Markham, employed by one J. W. Moore as a floor covering man, was interviewed July 28, 1964, where he was then working on a floor installation job at a hardware store, 128 Walnut Hill Shopping Center, Marsh Lane and Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas. He said he was present on June 27, 1964, when his mother was contacted at her residence by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and two men; and that when they left his mother's place he walked to the front yard with them. Marguerite Oswald said she would like his help and would like to talk with him away from his mother's house. They agreed to meet at the Dallas Public Library on Marsalis Street in Dallas, Texas, with Markham walking and the others driving. After arriving there, he got into their automobile. In the car were Mrs. Marguerite Oswald; a man who claimed to be an attorney, and who mentioned he had gone to college in Pennsylvania; another man who claimed to be a writer, and a woman who claimed to be the writer's wife.

He was interviewed by these people, with the man who claimed to be an attorney doing most of the talking, while a tape recorder was in operation in the car. He was asked a number of questions, to which he gave answers. He was asked to identify himself and to give some information about his background. He was asked about his brother James. He was asked what his mother had told him about observing the shooting of the Dallas police officer on the day of the assassination and told his questioner that his mother had told him she had seen the man, who she later identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, shoot Dallas Police Officer Tippit. He was asked if there appeared to be any doubt in his mother's mind as to his identification, and he claims he told the questioner that she appeared to have no doubt on this score. He was asked whether his mother had a reputation for fabricating stories or for lying, and he replied that she had lied on many occasions, even to members of her immediate family. He said he never gave his name as James Markham and that Mrs. Oswald and the others knew his identity as William Edward Markham.

William Edward Markham claimed he could not remember what other questions were asked of him, or what his answers were. He said he had no firsthand knowledge of the assassination of President

PARK LANE

Kennedy, the shooting of Dallas Police Officer Tippit, or the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, and that he had never known Oswald, Tippit, or Jack Ruby. He said at the time of the assassination he was living in Norfolk, Virginia, and did not return to Dallas until May 7, 1964. Therefore, he said, he had no confidential information to impart to anyone questioning him. He said, however, that he had requested his questioner to keep the fact he had been interviewed about his mother and his family confidential.

On July 24, 1964, Lieutenant H. R. Hancock, Burglary Detail, Dallas Police Department, made available records of his office which revealed that on June 30, 1964, at 6:05 a.m., James Alfred Markham had been arrested at his home, 328½ East Ninth Street, Dallas, Texas, on a charge of burglary by Officers Carl J. Raley and T. C. Smith. The arrest report stated that the officers had received information that Markham was a suspect in the burglary the night before of a concession stand at the Marsalis Zoo in Dallas; that they knocked at the door of his residence and his mother answered the door and invited the officers in. The officers told Mrs. Markham that her son was suspected of burglary. She told them her son came home late the night before and brought with him several cartons of cigarettes. She then awakened James, and after he put on his trousers he headed for the bathroom. Officer Raley started to follow him and Mrs. Markham requested the officer to wait outside. She also requested the officers not to handcuff James in her presence.

James Markham then went into the bathroom, located on the second floor of the residence at 328½ East Ninth Street, and closed the door. A few moments later the officers heard a noise and rushed into the bathroom. The window was raised, the screen loose, and James was gone. They observed him lying on the concrete driveway about 20 feet below.

The officers then took him to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas where he was treated. While at the house, Mrs. Markham showed officers two large brown paper sacks containing several cartons of cigarettes. She said her son also had other stolen property and gave officers two walkie talkie radios, an electric shaver, and two pillows, which she said were stolen.

He is presently in the Dallas County Jail awaiting trial. There is also a warrant outstanding for him for parole violation dated April 8, 1964.

7/31/64

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO DIRECTOR FBI (100-409763)  
FROM SAC DALLAS (100-10970) RUC  
SUBJECT ~~MARK LANE~~  
~~EM - C~~  
OO New York

ReButel to Dallas 7/23/64 and NY teletypes to Bureau and Dallas 7/22 and 23/64.

Transmitted herewith to the Bureau are ten copies of letterhead memorandum setting forth the results of investigation at Dallas concerning allegations made by LANE as to statements made by Mrs. HELEN LOUISE MARKHAM and her son JAMES MARKHAM. The property statement has not been placed on this letterhead memorandum in view of its contemplated dissemination to the President's Commission. Two copies of letterhead memorandum are enclosed for New York.

Contact by Mrs. MARKHAM with the Dallas Office on 6/27/64 was with SA CARL E. UNDERHILL. Remainder of the investigation contained in letterhead memorandum was conducted by SA W. JAMES WOOD.

UACB the information contained in the enclosed letterhead memorandum will not be included in any report in the assassination or OSWALD captioned cases.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 10)
- 2 - New York (100-117844) (Enc. 2)
- ② - Dallas (1 - 100-10970)  
(1 - 100-10461)

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Serials         
Index         
File         
Search       

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