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Jack Ruby informant for FBI

Knight News Wire

PHILADELPHIA — Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas in 1963, was an FBI informant as early as 1959.

That's revealed in an unpublicized letter from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission charged with investigating the President's death.

The letter, dated June 9, 1964, was declassified in 1965 at the National Archives but not made public. A private citizen's group investigating the Kennedy killing discovered it earlier this year.

The Warren Commission failed to mention the Hoover letter or Ruby's FBI connection in its 26-volume report, according to Mark Lane, a Washington attorney and longtime critic of the commission's finding that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy.

Lane now heads the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, a group lobbying to have Congress reopen the investigation into the 1963 assassination.

Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, shot Oswald to death in the Dallas jail Nov. 24, 1963, two days after President Kennedy was slain.

In the hand-delivered letter, Hoover advised the commission the FBI first contacted Ruby on March 11, 1959, and requested he act as an informant

because of his "knowledge of the criminal element in Dallas."

Hoover said Ruby "expressed a willingness to furnish information" and that no other results were obtained. Agents met with Ruby on eight other occasions between March 11, 1959 and Oct. 2, 1959, but received no information from him, and so discontinued the meetings, the Hoover letter contends.

Lane turned his findings over to Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the Judiciary.

Lane said Edwards was requesting FBI Director Clarence Kelley to furnish House investigators with copies of the FBI "302" reports that would contain more details of the agents' meetings with Ruby.

Revenue sharing abuse reported

Knight News Wire

WASHINGTON — For all its obvious benefits, federal revenue sharing is encouraging financial deception and discrimination at the local level, the government's chief auditor said Wednesday.

To remedy such abuses, U.S. Comptroller Gen. Elmer B. Staats urged Congress to write tougher civil rights provisions into the law and force local governments to be more accountable to the taxpayers.

Staats testified before a Senate Government Operations subcommittee on the findings of a General Accounting Office (GAO) review of revenue sharing in 26 localities.

The study, released Wednesday, contained no bombshells but did produce what subcommittee chairman Edmund Muskie, D-Maine, called "common threads" that are "discouraging."

Among them:

- To get around restrictions on the use of revenue sharing money, some local governments simply divert local funds for so-called "sensitive" projects and use the federal dollars to replenish their treasuries.

- Local accounting of revenue sharing uses, required by law, is largely "illusory" and doesn't reflect what is actually being done with the taxpayers' funds.

- The legacy of discriminatory employment practices has continued in many areas, despite restrictions in the revenue

sharing act against racial or sexual wage-discrimination.

- In most of the 26 localities revk public participation in budgetary decisions — a linchpin in the self-determination concept of revenue sharing — remains the same low level that existed in revenue sharing."

The GAO study also revealed a bright spots.

Revenue sharing, the GAO reports, relieved tax pressures in general. In the 26 localities had reduced taxes by of revenue sharing and nine other managed to hold the line.

Without revenue sharing, Staats said, many of the governments would had to reduce or eliminate services, create taxes or fees, or coax more at the state or federal governments.

Although civil rights abuses remain a troublesome problem, Staats said, "substantial evidence" that larger cities are changing their practices to include more minorities and female projects funded by revenue sharing.

But Staats said his auditors were frustrated in their attempts to monitor the actual impact of revenue sharing, virtually impossible to make more than an opinionated guess at the program, he said because of budget shuffling and accounting.

Staats suggested that Congress take all of strings off revenue sharing, rewrite the whole package to give federal government meaningful information over how localities spend national funds.

Fall from leaning tower of Pisa kills boy

PISA, Italy (AP) — Henry Arthur Case, a 12-year-old student from Kirkland, Wash., died at hospital Wednesday after falling from Pisa's famed leaning tower, authorities reported. He fractured his skull and limbs in the fall.

He was on a tour with schoolmates and

teachers. The group was climbing famed 179-foot bell tower Tuesday.

Police said the boy lagged behind in first open gallery and witnesses reported he hugged one of the slim columns, pull himself around it, lost his grip and fell 50 feet to the marble pavement.

Mom killed, son hurt crossing freeway

A woman, three months pregnant, was killed and her 8-year-old son injured as they tried to cross the west-bound lane of the East Freeway during rush hour traffic Wednesday afternoon, police said.

Leonora F. Coleman, 26, of 3602 Rosewood, 33, died at Ben Taub Hospital at 6:50 p.m. of head injuries and her son, Keary

internal injuries.

Police said Coleman, who had no gas and had crossed the freeway to a police station, was returning to her car when she was struck by a car in the 5th lane of the freeway.

No charges were filed against the driver of the Car, Martha L. Edwards, 51, of Georgia.