



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 14, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated September 9, 1964, concerning an allegation that Special Agent in Charge J. Gordon Shanklin of our Dallas Office made a public statement about a paraffin test performed on Lee Harvey Oswald.

Special Agent in Charge Shanklin advises me that he made no such statement and that the allegation is completely unfounded.

With my letter to you dated August 21, 1964 concerning the appearance of Mark Lane on the Barry Gray Radio Program in New York City, I furnished you a twenty-seven page transcript of this program. On page four of this transcript substantially the same allegation as set out in your letter dated September 9, 1964, was made by Mr. Lane. At that time this Bureau immediately questioned Special Agent in Charge Shanklin as to the truthfulness of this allegation. In this same letter to you dated August 21, 1964, on page two, I specifically stated, "The alleged announcements made by representatives of this Bureau, which are discussed on pages three and four of the enclosed transcription, are completely without foundation as no such announcements were made."

To further substantiate Special Agent in Charge Shanklin's denial I direct your attention to my letter dated February 26, 1964, wherein I furnished you another transcript of a meeting which took place at Town Hall, New York City, on February 13, 1964, where Mark Lane was the principal speaker.

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On page twenty-six of this transcript Mr. Lane is reported to have stated to his audience, "Now you may recall that on Saturday, November 23rd, we were told by Chief Curry, told the press of the nation, told the press of the world, that the paraffin test had come back. It was positive. It proved that Oswald had fired a weapon, it proved that Oswald was the assassin." You can readily see in this instance Mr. Lane attributes this statement concerning the paraffin test to Chief Curry of the Dallas Police Department.

For your further information the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling at Dallas dated November 30, 1963, commencing on page 145 discloses that the paraffin tests were conducted by members of the Dallas Police Department and the technical examinations were made by two members of the Dallas City - County Criminal Investigative Laboratory on November 23, 1963.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover