

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave., N. E.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

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APR 30

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On December 13, 1963 agents of your Bureau interviewed Mr. Robert Adrian Taylor concerning the possibility that he may have purchased a rifle from Lee Harvey Oswald sometime in March or April of 1963. The result of that interview is recorded on pages 71 through 73 of the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling, dated December 23, 1963 at Dallas, Texas. Our staff members were unable to obtain Mr. Taylor's deposition while they were in Dallas because Mr. Taylor was ill at that time.

We note that Mr. Taylor described the weapon which he allegedly purchased from Oswald as a Springfield bolt action 30.06 caliber rifle on which appeared the markings of the United States Rock Island Arsenal, model 1906, and the serial number 66091. We understand that Mr. Taylor has reconditioned or "sporterized" that weapon since he allegedly obtained it from Oswald.

Would you please advise as to the overall length, in its original condition, of a rifle of the type described by Mr. Taylor. We would also like to know the length of the longest component of such a rifle in its disassembled condition. We would also appreciate having a picture of such a rifle if it is readily available.

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MAY 4 1964

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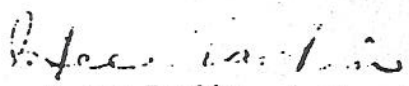
SOVIET

We note that the rifle which Taylor allegedly obtained from Oswald was not available for inspection by your agents when they interviewed Taylor. Would you please re-interview Mr. Taylor to determine the total length of the weapon in its present condition as well as the length of the longest component when the rifle is in a disassembled condition. We would also appreciate it if you could supply pictures of Mr. Taylor's rifle; assembled and disassembled.

Please question Mr. Taylor again concerning the date on which he obtained the rifle. We note that Taylor said that he thought he had seen Oswald on one occasion after he had purchased the rifle. Mr. Taylor should be asked whether or not he has ever seen the individual from whom he obtained the rifle at any other time, either before or after November 22, 1963. We would appreciate advice as to where the rifle was located on November 22, 1963.

Your continued cooperation with this Commission is appreciated.

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel