

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
% DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON D.C. 20535

DEAR SIR,

ON DECEMBER 10, 1984 I SENT TO THE
FBI THE ENCLOSED TWO DOCUMENTS, P575 OF THE
WARREN REPORT AND THE FBI'S VERSION OF THE
SAME ISSUE, VOL. 25, P859, (PUBLISHED IN THE WARREN
COMMISSION'S 26 VOLUMES). THE TWO REPORTS CREATE
A CONTRADICTION.

WHILE THE COMMISSION COULD NOT DETERMINE
IF OSWALD'S POST OFFICE APPLICATION LISTED A. HIDELL
AS ONE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE MAIL AT THE BOX,
THE FBI STATED THAT OSWALD DID NOT INDICATE
ON HIS APPLICATION THAT OTHERS, INCLUDING
AN A. HIDELL, WOULD RECEIVE MAIL THROUGH THE
P.O. BOX IN QUESTION. I ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION

ON JANUARY 10, 1985 WILLIAM M.
BAKER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SENT THE
ENCLOSED RESPONSE WHICH STATED NO DOCUMENTA-
TION "AT THIS TIME" COULD BE LOCATED TO
EXPLAIN THE FBI STATEMENT AND RESULTING
CONTRADICTION. MR. BAKER CONCURRED WITH THE
WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDING "INASMUCH AS A
PERTINENT PORTION OF THE APPLICATION HAD SINCE

2
BEEN DISCARDED."

WHILE I WAS GRATEFUL FOR MR. BAKER'S RESPONSE, HIS EXPLANATION, HOWEVER, DID NOT RESOLVE THE CONTRADICTION AT HAND.

ON NOV. 18, 1985 A CITIZEN NAMED PAUL CASSIDY WROTE TO THE FBI ABOUT THE SAME ISSUE. ON JAN. 7, 1986 MR. JAMES K. HALL, THE CHIEF OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - PRIVACY ACTS SECTION, RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION SENT 23 PAGES PERTAINING TO THE P.O. BOX ISSUE TO MR. CASSIDY. NOT ONLY DID MR. HALL AVOID THE ISSUE MR. CASSIDY WAS TRYING TO RESOLVE, BUT ONE OF THE 23 PAGES, A MEMO DATED 11/25/63 FROM W. D. GRIFFITH TO MR. CONRAD, REAFFIRMS THE FBI'S POSITION STATED IN VOLUME 25.

ON JULY 3, 1986 AN ASSOCIATE OF PAUL CASSIDY'S NAMED TIMOTHY CWIEK WROTE TO THE FBI (MR. HALL'S POSITION, SPECIFICALLY), FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE SITUATION / CONTRADICTIONS.

ON AUGUST 26, 1986 MR. BAKER RESPONDED TO MR. CWIEK, WHICH IS ENCLOSED. MR. BAKER STATES THAT THE APPLICATION THAT THE FBI EXAMINED WAS "A CARD".

WHEN ALL OF THE ABOVE CORRESPONDENCE REACHED ME, I WAS INTRIGUED, BUT CONFUSED WHILE I REALIZE THAT THE FBI IS NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE EXPLANATIONS, I THINK IT IS TO EVERYONE'S BENEFIT TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AS BEST AS POSSIBLE FOR HISTORY'S SAKE.

MR. BAKER WROTE, "ANY INTERPRETATION OF OUR REPORT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO OUR WORK REGARDING THE APPLICATION CARD."

FRANKLY, I DO NOT WANT TO "INTERPRET" ANYTHING SINCE TO DO SO MAY LEAD TO FALSE ASSUMPTIONS.

FIRST, THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, I REQUEST A COPY OF THE APPLICATION CARD CITED BY W.D. GRIFFITH AND SUBSEQUENTLY, MR. BAKER.

SECONDLY, COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THIS "CARD" AND OSWALD'S POST OFFICE APPLICATION? WAS IT NORMAL PRACTICE TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION ON A CARD AS WELL AS THE APPLICATION? PERHAPS AN EXPLANATION OF THIS CARD COULD RESOLVE SOME OF THE CONFUSION.

FINALLY, IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT W.D. GRIFFITH WHO

IS THE BEST SOURCE FOR RESOLUTION.

WHILE I REALIZE YOU CANNOT
OFFER ME HIS ADDRESS, COULD YOU GIVE
ME THE ADDRESS FOR THE FBI RETIRED
AGENTS' ORGANIZATION? ALSO COULD I
FORWARD A PACKAGE, THROUGH YOU, TO
MR. D. GRIFFITH SO THAT HE COULD DETERMINE
FOR HIMSELF WHETHER TO CONTACT ME?

I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE
YOUR COOPERATION AND HOPE TO HEAR
FROM YOU SOON.

SINCERELY,

Edgar F. Tatro

EDGAR F. TATRO

51 EDGE MONT RD.

BRAINTREE, MASS 02184

P.S. ON JANUARY 10, 1985 MR. BAKER TOLD
ME THAT THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE RESOLVED
DUE TO LACK OF DOCUMENTATION "AT THIS TIME."
PERHAPS SOME DOCUMENTATION, EIGHT YEARS
LATER, COULD BE LOCATED. IF SO, I REQUEST
COPIES OF ALL OF SAID DOCUMENTATION THROUGH
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. THANK
YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PATIENCE.

was the man in the picture and that Oswald was not there.

Speculation.—The post office box in Dallas to which Oswald had the rifle mailed was kept under both his name and that of A. Hidell.

Commission finding.—It is not known whether Oswald's application listed the name A. Hidell as one entitled to receive mail at the box. In accordance with U.S. Post Office regulations, the portion of the application listing the names of persons other than the applicant entitled to receive mail was discarded after the box was closed on May 14, 1963. During the summer of 1963, Oswald rented a post office box in New Orleans, listing the name "Hidell" in addition to his own name and that of his wife. Hidell was a favorite alias used by Oswald on a number of occasions. Diligent search has failed to reveal any person in Dallas or New Orleans by that name. It was merely a creation for his own purposes.

Speculation.—The President's car was going at a speed estimated at from 12 to 20 miles per hour, thus presenting a target com-

575

12. CLAIM: The Post Office Box in Dallas to which Oswald had the rifle mailed was kept under both his name and that of "A. Hidell." Page 111.

INVESTIGATION: Our investigation has revealed that Oswald did not indicate on his application that others, including an "A. Hidell," would receive mail through the box in question, which was Post Office Box 3915 in Dallas. This box was obtained by Oswald on October 9, 1962, and relinquished by him on May 14, 1963.

- 4 -

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2585—Continued

868



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 10, 1985

Mr. Edgar F. Tatro
51 Edgemont Road
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Dear Mr. Tatro:

Your letter of December 10 has been received.

With regard to your first inquiry, we have no information about the discrepancy which appeared on page 529 of the FBI's Dallas report on the assassination of President Kennedy in addition to that set forth in my letter of November 27.

In response to your question about Lee Harvey Oswald's application for Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas, we have conducted a search of our records and have been unable to locate information establishing that the FBI had access to data on Oswald's application, other than that on the portion of the form listing his name as the applicant. At this time, we can locate no documentation for the FBI statement, included in Warren Commission Exhibit Number 2585, that our investigation revealed that Oswald had not indicated on his postal application that others would receive mail at that box. We concur with the Commission's finding that it is not known whether Oswald's application listed an "A. Hidell" as also entitled to receive mail at the box, inasmuch as a pertinent portion of the application had since been discarded.

I hope the above explanation resolves your questions.

Sincerely,

William M. Baker
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

Dear Sir,

I am doing research into the assassination of President Kennedy. At the present time I would like to bring to your attention one particular area in which I will need your assistance.

This is the subject of Lee Harvey Oswald application for Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas.

The one thing that ~~is~~ confuses me is how on page 575 the Warren Commission states that it was not possible to know whether Oswald's application listed the name A. Hidell as a person able to receive mail. The reason being the application portion ^{with} the names listed was discarded after the box was closed on MAY 14 1963.

On the other hand, the F.B.I. investigation published in volume 25, page 859 reveals "that Oswald did not indicate on his application that others, including an A. Hidell would receive mail at Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas."

This statement in effect, is saying that the application was seen by your investigators.

This contradiction needs to be clarified.

Because of this inconsistency I hereby

request under the Freedom of Information Act
all documents, reports, letters, memos, and
correspondence relating directly to the investigation
of this issue.

Thank you

Sincerely yours,

Paul Cassidy

PAUL CASSIDY

10 WASHINGTON ST.
MIDDLETON, MA. 01949



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

JAN 07 1986

Mr. Paul Cassidy
10 Washington Street
Middleton, Massachusetts 01949

Request No. 265,177

Dear Mr. Cassidy:

This is in the further reference to your Freedom of Information Act request concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's application for Post Office Box 2915 in connection with the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Assassination.

Documents pertaining to the subject of your request have been located, assembled and processed under the provisions of the FOIA and released. The processed documents consist of 23 pages.

Enclosed are the 23 pages and a copy of the FOIA Explanation of Exemptions.

You may submit an appeal from any denial contained herein by writing to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (Attention: Office of Information and Privacy), United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530, within thirty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely yours,

James K. Hall, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Records Management Division

Enclosures (2)

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO Mr. Conrad *AC*

DATE 11/25/63

FROM W. D. Griffith *W.D.G.*

SUBJECT ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

We have previously identified the order for the murder weapon submitted to Klein's Sporting Goods Company in Chicago as having been written by Oswald. The gun was shipped to "A. Hidell, P. O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas." We have now identified the application for this P. O. Box as having been prepared by Oswald.

Dallas, by their letter 11/23/63, submitted application for P. O. Box 2915, dated 10/9/62. This card bears the printed name "Lee H. Oswald", home address "3519 Fairmore Avenue, Dallas, Texas." and bears the handwritten signature "Lee H. Oswald." We have compared the pertinent printing and writing on this card and definitely identified it with known writing of suspect Lee H. Oswald, previously furnished to us. It should be noted that although Oswald used the name "A. Hidell" in placing the order for the murder weapon, this name does not appear on his application for the P. O. Box to which the gun was shipped.

A teletype is being dispatched to Dallas advising of this identification. This evidence is being retained in the Laboratory.

ACTION: None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

WDG:mb
(10)

REC-49

477

22 DEC 2 1963

SEVEN *(initials)*

1725 Fernon St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145

July 3, 1986

c/o U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Chief, Freedom of Information - Privacy Act Section
Records Management Division
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Sir:

I am researching the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and I am hoping you will be able to provide me with some information.

In particular, I am interested in resolving a conflict between the FBI and the Warren Commission concerning who could receive mail from Lee Harvey Oswald's Post Office Box 2915 in Dallas.

As you will see from the enclosed documents, the FBI indicated that no one other than Oswald could receive mail from Post Office Box 2915 (Commission Exhibit No. 2585). Yet the Commission concluded that it was not known who could receive mail from Box 2915 because a document has been discarded (see enclosed Report, page 575).

When a friend, Paul Cassidy, wrote to clarify this discrepancy, he received an FBI document from Mr. James K. Hall indicating that the FBI was accurate: no one other than Oswald was authorized to receive mail from Box 2915.

So I am interested in knowing whether this FBI memo (see enclosure) is the FBI's official answer to the contradiction. I am aware that the Freedom Of Information Act does not require you to answer this question, but I am hoping that you can clarify this discrepancy for my own peace of mind.

Thanking you in advance for any information you can offer, I will close for ~~now~~

Yours,

Timothy Cwiek
Timothy Cwiek

tpc
Enclosures



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

August 26, 1986

Mr. Timothy Cwiek
1725 Fernon Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19145

Dear Mr. Cwiek:

Your letter of July 3 to the FBI's Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) Section, Records Management Division, has been referred to my office. Although our FOIPA personnel cannot answer specific questions about the information they process, my office can respond to some inquiries about our work in more detail.

The FBI report dated November 25, 1963, describes an examination of an application for Post Office Box 2915 by Lee Harvey Oswald. The report also states that the name "A. Hidell" does not appear on the application. The application the FBI examined was a card. It is unclear whether our laboratory personnel knew that a portion of the application, which would have contained the names of persons other than Oswald entitled to receive mail, was missing or that it had been routinely detached and destroyed. Accordingly, any interpretation of our report should be limited to our work regarding the application card. As you are aware, the other portion of the application was destroyed after the box was closed in May, 1963; our report is not referring to that portion.

I hope that I have been of assistance.

Sincerely,

William M. Baker

William M. Baker
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs