

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 20, 1963

Joyce Murrett

*Interviewed
D. Murrett
Mrs. Charles Murrett*

Mrs. JOYCE O'BRIEN, nee Murrett, born February 23, 1927 at New Orleans, Louisiana, residence 1615 Fairway Street, Beaumont, Texas, advised that when visiting her mother, Mrs. CHARLES MURRETT, 757 French Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, in August, 1963, she received a telephone call from LEE HARVEY OSWALD in jail in New Orleans, requesting that she post \$25.00 bond to permit him to get out of jail. She went to the New Orleans Police Department and was informed by a police officer that OSWALD was charged with disturbing the peace for carrying a poster. She was shown a homemade cardboard on a stick with the words "VIVA CASTRO" and pamphlets attached, which she did not read. She thereupon decided against the bond and went to a hospital where her mother had an eye operation that morning.

Later, because of the circumstances of OSWALD's wife, she decided to return to the police department and she talked to an officer who advised her against providing the bond because OSWALD might not appear for trial. He also advised that OSWALD could be released without bond upon the request of a politician or elected official.

Mrs. O'BRIEN returned to her mother's home where she received another call from OSWALD inquiring about the delay in his release. She told him she did not have the money and that possibly he could be released upon request of an elected official. OSWALD rejected the proposal and asked her to contact his wife, who had the money.

Texas

Mrs. O'BRIEN then telephoned a Mr. EMILE BRUNEAUX, who had been a friend of her father, and advised him of OSWALD's situation and he agreed to help. Mr. BRUNEAUX later called and advised he had contacted a politician or official, name not recalled, and that OSWALD had been released. Soon afterwards, OSWALD called thanking her for obtaining his release. He was not told who secured his release but was aware that it was a special favor. OSWALD promised to appear in court.

On 11-30-63 at Beaumont, Texas File # HO 62-2115

by SA JOSEPH B. KILGORE:bjw

Date dictated 11-30-63

Section 13

NO 62-2115

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Mrs. O'BRIEN left New Orleans for Beaumont the following day, a Sunday, and heard nothing from OSWALD or concerning the disposition of the charges against him. She had been in New Orleans several days but never actually saw OSWALD on that trip.

Mrs. O'BRIEN advised that she has known her cousin, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, since he was a very small child, noting that she was several years older than he. Mrs. O'BRIEN vaguely recalled that her mother met her sister, Mrs. MARGUERIETT OSWALD, in New Orleans when LEE HARVEY OSWALD was two or three years old and because of Mrs. OSWALD's poor circumstances, LEE resided with Mrs. MURRET for some time, perhaps a year or two. Later, Mrs. OSWALD married a man, name unknown, who is now deceased, and moved to some place in Texas, taking LEE HARVEY OSWALD with her. At that time, OSWALD was still pre-school age. Thereafter, Mrs. O'BRIEN had little contact with the OSWALD family. She recalled that on an occasion when his brother, ROBERT OSWALD, was hospitalized in Texas for surgery, LEE HARVEY OSWALD visited the MURRET family in New Orleans for about a week. OSWALD was then a young boy of about junior high school age.

Mrs. O'BRIEN advised that after LEE HARVEY OSWALD left school she knew very little about his activities. She and her husband learned through news media that he had gone to Russia but did not know of his return until the summer of 1963. About July, 1963 Mrs. O'BRIEN was visiting her mother in New Orleans when OSWALD called Mrs. MURRET and he brought his Russian wife, who was pregnant and their small child, to Mrs. MURRET's home for a visit of a few hours. At that time, OSWALD did little talking and volunteered no information concerning his past activities or associations. He left the impression that he was pleased to be back in the United States. When Mrs. LEE HARVEY OSWALD was asked how she liked America, she stated "Me like America. Lee no like Russia. Lee no like America. Lee like moon."

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Mrs. O'BRIEN advised that as a small child OSWALD was outgoing and friendly. It was her understanding that after moving to Texas, his mother was employed and required him to stay home alone. She recalled that during his visit to New Orleans as a young boy of junior high school age, he stayed inside and watched television and read, which was not considered normal for a boy of that age. Mrs. O'BRIEN expressed the belief that OSWALD lived completely within himself and had built up strong personal beliefs within himself and was "against everything". She was unable to furnish any information or explanation concerning OSWALD's involvement with the Cuban groups, either pro-Castro or anti-Castro.

Mrs. O'BRIEN advised that her husband, EMILE O'BRIEN, is employed as a high school coach and teacher and that they are active in the Catholic church. Friends and associates in Beaumont are not aware of her relationship to OSWALD.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/4/63

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At New Orleans LA.

CHARLES ~~P~~ MURRET, residence address 757 French Street, employed as a clerk on the Mississippi River front, working under a Permit issued by the Clerks' & Checkers' Union Local 1497, furnished the following information:

LEE HARVEY OSWALD is his nephew, by virtue of the fact OSWALD's mother, MARGUERITE, is a sister to MURRET's wife. He first met MARGUERITE in about 1925. She married EDDIE PIC. A son, JOHN EDWARD PIC, was born of this marriage. She apparently then divorced PIC because she subsequently married LEE OSWALD and had two sons by this marriage, namely ROBERT and LEE. MARGUERITE's husband died before LEE was born. MURRET could not recall any years in which these events took place. LEE lived in the MURRET home for some months, which may have been almost a year, when he was a baby. MURRET does not recall when MARGUERITE and her children left New Orleans. He remembers being told by his wife that MARGUERITE had married a third time, but he does not know what her third husband's name was.

MURRET does not know when MARGUERITE and LEE returned to New Orleans and does not know where they lived before they returned. He does recall LEE attended Beauregard Junior High School in New Orleans while he and his mother lived in Exchange Alley, but he does not know for how long. He has no idea when LEE and his mother left New Orleans at that period of time. He does not know any friends or associates of LEE.

MURRET did not see LEE when he visited Mrs. MURRET at the time LEE was in the U. S. Marine Corps.

MURRET recalled that he heard somewhere, but he did not recall where that there was an item in the newspaper that LEE OSWALD was in Russia and wanted to give up his U. S. citizenship. He did not recall what year that occurred. He did recall that his wife received a Christmas card from LEE while LEE was in Russia and this card apparently was torn up by the grandsons because when his wife wanted to send the card to their son, EUGENE, it could not be found.

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 On 12/3/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

ENGELHARDT/cay

by SA's EUGENE E. BJORN & JOSEPH G. Date dictated 12/4/63

NO 89-69/cay

The next time he knows anything about LEE OSWALD was when he arrived home from work one day in the spring of 1963, and LEE was there. He gave LEE permission to give the MURRET telephone number to employment agencies or prospective employers. MURRET, personally never received any calls because he was at work.

LEE borrowed \$50 from MURRET at the time he went to look for an apartment. He returned it before he received his first pay from the Rely Coffee Co., where he started to work after being in New Orleans about a week. MURRET is of the opinion he merely wanted to have the money on hand in the event it was needed for a deposit on an apartment, and apparently he did not need it.

He never had any discussions with LEE concerning LEE's views on anything and in fact had very little conversation of any kind.

MURRET did not talk to the woman who brought LEE's wife and child from Texas. He arrived at his home and everyone was in the station wagon ready to leave. He did not know if anyone other than the woman driver and LEE's wife and child were brought to New Orleans. He offered to drive his car and lead the way to the apartment LEE had rented on Magazine Street and did so. He did not go into the apartment but merely guided them there.

LEE and his family visited the MURRET home on about three occasions. At no time was there any discussions of political views. He probably picked up LEE and his family one time at their apartment, the address of which he does not know, but does know the location. He probably took them home several times. He used either his 1950 Plymouth, grey color, two-door, or his 1956 Mercury, green color, four-door.

MURRET drove his wife, his daughter JOYCE, and LEE's family to Mobile, Alabama, where MURRET's son, EUGENE, is studying at the Jesuit House of Studies, Springhill College. EUGENE had invited LEE to give a talk to the students on conditions in Russia.

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NO 89-69/cay

MURRET did not recall the exact week end that this trip was taken; but it was subsequent to the return from Beaumont, Texas, of his wife with his daughter JOYCE, in July, 1963, and before August 8, on which date his wife went into the hospital for an ear operation. MURRET did not listen to the talk LEE gave, and did not ask LEE anything about the talk. He asked EUGENE, and EUGENE told him that the students seemed interested in what LEE had told them.

MURRET was out of New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 8, to 11, 1963. When he returned, his family told him that LEE had been arrested by the New Orleans Police Department for distributing leaflets pertaining to the Fair Play For Cuba Committee and that he had been released from jail at the request of a friend of MURRET's, who was called by his daughter JOYCE. He wanted to impress upon LEE the necessity of appearing in court on the following day; and, therefore, went to LEE's apartment on the late evening of August 11. He asked LEE if anybody was going to represent him in court. LEE did not give a direct answer to this question, nor to any of the other questions, which MURRET asked him; and MURRET received the impression that LEE felt it was none of MURRET's business. LEE was alone with him in the room, and MURRET was trying to find out if LEE belonged to any Fair Play For Cuba Committee, if there was any such committee in New Orleans, and if there was, why nobody had appeared to parole him after he was arrested. LEE did not give a direct answer to any of these questions; and MURRET therefore assumed that there was no such organization in New Orleans, and asked LEE, "What are you trying to do, start an organization of your own around here." LEE did not answer.

LEE did not make any statement one way or another as to whether there was a Fair Play For Cuba Committee in New Orleans, whether he was an officer or not, or whether even a member. Because of the manner in which LEE acted and the fact no one came to his assistance when he was arrested, Mr. MURRET was of the opinion that LEE was acting on his own in whatever he was doing. He was at LEE's apartment not more than ten minutes.

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NO 89-59/cay

There was a picture of FIDEL CASTRO, not framed, on the mantle. MURRET did not know if it was a photograph cut out of a magazine and pasted on some cardboard, or whether it was a drawing or painting of CASTRO.

MURRET recalled that LEE telephoned the house prior to a radio debate and suggested the family listen to the debate. MURRET heard very little of the debate and never questioned LEE subsequently about it. MURRET stated that one time he asked LEE why he did not teach his wife English, and he did not receive any answer from LEE. MURRET recalled that once or twice, he asked LEE's wife how she liked America, and she smiled and said, "Like America." The last time MURRET saw LEE and his family was on Labor Day, 1963. He did not know when LEE and his family left New Orleans, and he received no communication of any type from LEE after Labor Day.