

# Order to Destroy Oswald Note Still A Mystery: FBI

Washington, Oct. 21 (News Bureau)—James Adams, deputy associate director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified today that investigators could not determine who, if anyone, had ordered the destruction of a threatening note delivered by Lee Harvey Oswald to the FBI office in Dallas a few days before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Adams acknowledged that the note was destroyed by a Dallas FBI agent a few hours after Kennedy had been killed. The agent, James P. Hosty Jr., is now stationed in Kansas City. He contends that he was told by his boss, J. Gordon Shanklin, then agent in charge in Dallas, to destroy the note.

Shanklin has denied having known at the time of any such note.

Adams said a receptionist, whom he did not identify, had told the investigators that the note read: "Let this be a warning. I will blow up the FBI and the Dallas Police Department if you don't stop bothering my wife"

The receptionist, according to Adams, said Oswald had wanted to give it to Hosty, who had been investigating Oswald for possible subversive activities. Hosty was out of the office, Adams quoted the receptionist as having said, so she gave it to the assistant special agent in charge, who dismissed the note as one from a "nut" and told her to give it to Hosty when he came in.

Justice Department sources have told The News that Assistant Attorney General Richard Thornburgh has ordered a halt to investigation of the matter. According to the sources, Thornburgh believes "no substantial offense" has been uncovered. The five-year period in the statute of limitations has long since run out for any prosecution for destroying the note, which might have been evidence in the investigation of the Kennedy slaying.

Adams, appearing today before a House Judiciary subcommittee, said the FBI was reviewing the matter and might take "appropriate administrative action."

Adams said he could not determine whether FBI officials in Washington had been aware at the time of the Oswald note of its destruction. But Adams said that William C. Sullivan, retired assistant FBI director, had told investigators that Shanklin had discussed the note with him.