



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

No. 7

New Orleans, Louisiana

May 13, 1966

JAMES HARRISON VANCE
PROTECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES HARRISON VANCE, 4311 Duplessis Street, Apartment B, New Orleans, Louisiana, was interviewed on May 10, 1966, and furnished the following information:

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Date 5/12/66

JAMES HARRISON VANCE, 4311 Duplessis Street, Apartment B, New Orleans, Louisiana, was interviewed at the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans, Louisiana, in response to an invitation to him for interview. He furnished the following information:

He is twenty-five years of age, having been born in Memphis, Tennessee, on January 15, 1941.

He was employed at the Boeing Company in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) site, Michoud, Louisiana, on January 31, 1966, and has been employed at this company since the latter date in the capacity as an associate research engineer.

He is married to MARIA TERESA CONTRERAS, age 29, who was born on October 10, 1936, in Guatemala. She has passed her citizenship examination at Lake Charles, Louisiana, and is scheduled to be admitted to citizenship in the immediate future in New Orleans. Sometime after the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, JAMES HARRISON VANCE came to learn through acquaintances that he may have possibly been associated with LEE HARVEY OSWALD on three different occasions. When this was brought to his attention, however, he could not recall, and has not since been able to recall, that he has ever seen OSWALD or has ever had actual contact with him. He could not recall from the pictures of OSWALD published in newspapers following the assassination that he had ever seen OSWALD in person or that he had ever had any contact with him.

VANCE's alleged possible contacts with OSWALD came about in this manner:

VANCE is a friend of PALMER MC BRIDE, 400 East Grant Street, Apartment 4, Cocoa Beach, Florida, who is employed in the space flight field and who is regarded as being reliable by VANCE. Sometime in 1958, while both MC BRIDE and VANCE were living in New Orleans, MC BRIDE asked VANCE if he would work in his place for one day at the Pfisterer Dental Laboratory Co. in New Orleans. VANCE agreed to do this for MC BRIDE. MC BRIDE took VANCE to this

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On 5/10/66 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601
NO 100-17297
 by SA J. WOODROW GILMORE and Date dictated 5/11/66
SA ERNEST C. WALL, JR. :med

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laboratory on the day he was to substitute for him and introduced VANCE to some few individuals in the laboratory. In 1965, when VANCE subsequently had contact with MC BRIDE, MC BRIDE mentioned to VANCE that one of the individuals introduced to VANCE at the laboratory was OSWALD.

MC BRIDE was also the Vice President of the New Orleans Amateur Rocket Club (NOARC) which was also known as the New Orleans Amateur Astronomers Association or Astronomy Club, which consisted of twelve youths who were members of the club and interested in astronomy and rockets. VANCE was a member of this club in 1956 or 1957 while still in high school and then began gradually to break away from the club and discontinued attending meetings after he began to attend college. VANCE believed there was one meeting of this club in 1958 held at the home of his mother, Mrs. CHARLES RAYBIN, 2720 Fagot Avenue, Metairie, Louisiana.

VANCE stated he was also told by MC BRIDE in 1965 that OSWALD had attended some of the meetings of this rocket or astronomy club. VANCE stated that he was sure, however, that OSWALD could not have been a full-time member, if a member at all, and that undoubtedly any association OSWALD may have had with this club would have been prior to September, 1958.

VANCE also stated that while he was in high school he was not a member of but did attend a few meetings of the Moisant Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron of the U. S. Air Force in New Orleans in 1957 or 1958. He was interested in a radio class only in this school. Following the assassination of President KENNEDY, THOMAS COMPTON, III, who presently resides in the Parkchester Apartment area of New Orleans and who, according to VANCE, sometimes speaks with inaccuracies, told VANCE that OSWALD had been affiliated with the Moisant Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

VANCE reiterated that he has never to his knowledge either seen or been associated with OSWALD.

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He stated he once mentioned to his mother that it could have been possible that OSWALD was one of twelve youths who had attended a meeting of the rocket club at her home in Metairie when he had alleged to have such a meeting at her home. He stated that to his best knowledge, his mother would have had no other possible contact with OSWALD and would have no knowledge concerning him.

VANCE declared he has never heard anything about OSWALD's being a member of the Boy Scouts. VANCE stated he himself had been a member of two different packs of the Cub Scouts but had decided he would not join the Boy Scouts. His affiliation with the Cub Scouts was in both New Orleans and Metairie, Louisiana.

VANCE declared he does not know anyone who is or has been a member of the Communist Party and volunteered that he himself has never had any interests in the Communist Party.

He also stated that he knows nothing about the assassination of President KENNEDY.

A description of VANCE as obtained from personal interview and observation is as follows:

Name	JAMES HARRISON VANCE
Age	25
Date of Birth	January 15, 1941
Place of Birth	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	5'10½"
Weight	160
Build	Medium
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue - wears thick-lensed glasses
Complexion	Fair
Marital Status	Married
Wife	MARIA TERESA CONTRERAS
Residence	4311 Duplessis Street, Apartment B, New Orleans, Louisiana

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Employment

Associate Research Engineers,
Boeing Company, NASA Center,
Michoud, Louisiana;

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Southern Regional Research
Laboratory, Robert E. Lee Boulevard,
New Orleans, Louisiana, 1963 to
September of 1964

Selective
Service
Status

Registered at Local Board 29,
New Orleans, Louisiana. Classified
3-A as is father; no military
service

Education

Graduate of East Jefferson
High School, New Orleans,
Louisiana, 1958; Louisiana
State University, Baton Rouge,
Louisiana, 1958 to 1960;
Southeastern Louisiana College,
Hammond, Louisiana, 1961 to
1963; University of Southwestern
Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana,
September of 1964 to January 26,
1966.