

# FBI Agent Suspended For 30 Days

## Disciplinary Action Comes As Result of Oswald Case

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FBI Agent James P. Hosty Jr., the Dallas agent who investigated Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination, has been suspended from duty for 30 days without pay and transferred to Kansas City, Mo.

Unimpeachable sources said the disciplinary action came on orders from the Washington office of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The 30-day suspension was effective last Monday—Oct. 5. During this period agent Hosty, the father of eight children, will neither work nor will he be paid.

When the suspension stint is over next month he is to report for duty in the Kansas City office of the FBI.

The sources said the action against agent Hosty came as a direct result of the Warren Commission's criticism of the FBI in its report on the assassination of President Kennedy. The report was released Sept. 27.

J. Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office, declined comment on the story Tuesday morning.

In Washington, a terse "no comment" was issued from FBI headquarters.

The Times Herald learned that this was the second disciplinary action the FBI had taken against Mr. Hosty, who has been with the bureau approximately 12 years—10 of them in Dallas.

Prior to last Monday's order, he had served a 90-day period of probation—with pay—and had received a letter of censure.

Both of these earlier moves were taken after the assassination but before the Warren Commission report was released.

### OTHER CENSURE ACTION

In addition to the suspension and transfer of Mr. Hosty, letters of censure were also received last week by three other Dallas-based FBI agents.

The letters, which constitute an official reprimand in writing and are placed in the agents' personnel jackets, also resulted from the Warren Commission report. Exact details, however, were unavailable.

As an FBI internal security expert assigned to Dallas, agent Hosty was routinely investigating Oswald, a returned Russian defector, last November.

Testimony before the Warren Commission showed that he did not talk to Oswald, but did on Nov. 1 interview Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, with whom Marina Oswald and her two children lived.

Mrs. Paine told agent Hosty that Oswald was living in Oak Cliff, but she did not know his address or phone number—the information the agent was seeking. She also told him that Oswald was working at the Texas School Book Depository.

The Commission report said agent Hosty called the depository on Nov. 4 to confirm Oswald's employment, but did not speak with Oswald.

### LAST INVESTIGATION

On Nov. 5, Mr. Hosty again talked to Mrs. Paine and that was the last investigation the agent did on the Oswald case until Nov. 22.

Commenting on this, the Commission said only that "under proper conditions, the knowledge of the pending presidential visit might have prompted Hosty to have made more vigorous efforts to locate Oswald's rooming house address and interview him regarding unresolved matters."

It said also that the FBI generally took an "unduly restrictive" view of its responsibility for presidential protection in not reporting Oswald's presence to the Secret Service.

The FBI's action against agent Hosty came despite the Bureau's position to the Warren Commission that none of its agents did anything wrong.

As explained by FBI officials before the Commission, agent Hosty's failure to notify the Secret Service was a result of the Secret Service policy on such matters—not the FBI's.

The Commission, in fact, strongly criticized the Secret Service's policy of requiring only information regarding direct threats to the President referred to it.

Agent Hosty testified before the Commission that none of the background information known on Oswald prior to Nov. 22 fitted him into the criteria set down by the Secret Service.

FBI officials backed him on this point.

They also supported the Dallas agent in a controversy with Lt. Jack Revill of the Dallas Police Department.

### REVILL STATEMENT

Lt. Revill reported in a memorandum—which was later given to the Commission—that agent Hosty told him in the basement of City Hall following Oswald's arrest that Oswald was "capable" of shooting the President.

Agent Hosty denied ever making such a statement and FBI Director Hoover backed up the denial in a press statement following release of the memo several months ago.

The Commission pointed out the differences in the testimony of agent Hosty and Lt. Revill, but did not draw any conclusions as to whether the statement was made.

Agent Hosty and the other three men were not the first to receive official discipline from the FBI.

The Times Herald reported two weeks ago that agent Hosty's supervisor in Dallas had been demoted and an agent in New Orleans was given a disciplinary transfer to Springfield, Ill.

The man in New Orleans had more than 22 years of service, however, and chose to retire rather than go to Springfield. He had been the agent responsible for the Oswald case in New Orleans before the assassination.