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PMS BUDGET

REPORT-FBI (1050)

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WASHINGTON, SEPT. 28 (AP)-HOW MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT LEE HARVEY OSWALD DID THE FBI HAVE? WHY DIDN'T THE FBI TURN THE FILE OVER TO THE SECRET SERVICE?

THESE TWO QUESTIONS ARE LIKELY TO LOOM LARGER AS THE MASSIVE 888-PAGE REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION GAINS WIDER CIRCULATION.

THE REPORT LEVELED SWEEPING CRITICISM AT BOTH THE FBI AND THE SECRET SERVICE FOR LACK OF COORDINATION. IT SAID THE FBI HAD EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON OSWALD BUT BECAUSE OF ITS UNDERSTANDING OF SECRET SERVICE NEEDS HAD NOT TURNED THE FILE OVER.

NO INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY AT THAT TIME KNEW THAT OSWALD HAD TRIED TO KILL FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER, BUT THE FBI KNEW OF OSWALD'S DEFECTION TO RUSSIA, HIS PRO-CASTRO TENDENCIES, HIS HOSTILITY TO THE UNITED STATES, HIS TRIP TO MEXICO AND THE FACT THAT HE HAD A JOB IN A BUILDING ALONG THE MOTORCADE ROUTE.

"ALL OF THESE (FACTS) IF WE HAD THEM ALTOGETHER WOULD HAVE ADDED UP TO POINTING OUT A PRETTY BAD INDIVIDUAL," SECRET SERVICE OFFICIAL ROBERT I. BOUCK TOLD THE COMMISSION. "AND I THINK THAT TOGETHER HAD WE KNOWN HE HAD A VANTAGE POINT WOULD HAVE SEEMED SOMEWHAT SERIOUS TO US."

FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, HOWEVER, TOLD THE COMMISSION "THERE WAS NOTHING UP TO THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION THAT GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THIS MAN WAS A DANGEROUS CHARACTER WHO MIGHT DO HARM TO THE PRESIDENT OR THE VICE PRESIDENT."

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THE FBI, THE WARREN REPORT REVEALED, FIRST OPENED A FILE ON OSWALD IN OCTOBER 1959 WHEN HE DEFECTED TO THE SOVIET UNION. NEWS REPORTS OF HIS DEFECTION ALSO CAUSED OSWALD FILE FOLDERS TO BE OPENED UP BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS THE FBI PUT INTO THE OSWALD FILE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND BACKGROUND DATA FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ABOUT HIS MILITARY SERVICE.

IN APRIL 1960 HIS MOTHER, MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD, AND HIS BROTHER ROBERT, WERE INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF SMALL SUMS OF MONEY FROM MRS. OSWALD TO HER SON IN RUSSIA.

THE FBI CONTINUED TO KEEP TABS ON OSWALD IN RUSSIA BY PERIODIC CHECKS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. IT KNEW HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO RENOUNCE HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP, HAD DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A MARXIST, HAD SAID HE WOULD TURN OVER TO THE SOVIET UNION ANY USEFUL INFORMATION GARNERED AS A MARINE RADAR TECHNICIAN AND "HAD DISPLAYED AN ARROGANT AND AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY."

FROM THE PASSPORT OFFICE, THE FBI LEARNED THAT OSWALD HAD PROTESTED HIS "UNDESIRABLE" DISCHARGE FROM THE MARINES IN A LETTER TO GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY OF TEXAS, WHOM HE BELIEVED WAS STILL SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. THIS IS THE LETTER IN WHICH HE PROMISED TO "EMPLOY ALL MEANS TO RIGHT THIS GROSS MISTAKE OR INJUSTICE."

LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER OSWALD RETURNED FROM RUSSIA, FBI AGENTS JOHN W. FAIN AND B. TOM CARTER DROPPED IN TO SEE HIM AT HIS BROTHER'S HOME IN FORT WORTH.

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HE WAS UNWILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHY HE WENT TO RUSSIA AND DENIED HE HAD EVER RENOUNCED HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP OR HAD ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.

AGENT FAIN INTERVIEWED OSWALD AGAIN ON AUG. 16, 1962. OSWALD STILL REFUSED TO DISCUSS WHY HE HAD GONE TO RUSSIA, PROTESTED HIS MARINE DISCHARGE AND AGAIN DENIED ANY DEAL WITH RUSSIAN AGENTS.

FAIN CONCLUDED OSWALD "WAS NOT A SECURITY RISK OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OR VIOLENT" AND RECOMMENDED THE CASE BE PUT IN A CLOSED STATUS, WHICH DID NOT PRECLUDE GATHERING OF MORE INFORMATION OR ITS BEING REOPENED IF FURTHER WORK SEEMED NECESSARY.

THE FBI CONTINUED TO KEEP A ROUTINE CHECK ON THE OSWALDS. THEY LEARNED THAT HE "WAS DRINKING TO EXCESS AND BEATING HIS WIFE," THAT HE HAD MOVED FROM FORTH WORTH TO DALLAS AND HAD BEGAN SUBSCRIBING TO THE WORKER, A COMMUNIST PUBLICATION. ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF AGENT JAMES P. HOSTY JR., WHO TOOK OVER WHEN FAIN RETIRED, THE OSWALD CASE WAS REOPENED.

THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE FBI LEARNED THAT OSWALD WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, CLAIMING HE WAS DISTRIBUTING THEIR LITERATURE IN DALLAS, BUT BY THE TIME AGENT HOSTY GOT THE INFORMATION IT WAS CONSIDERED TO STALE TO BE ACTED ON.

IN JUNE 1963, OSWALD APPLIED FOR A PASSPORT IN NEW ORLEANS, STATING HE PLANNED A TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE, THE SOVIET UNION, FINLAND AND POLAND. THE PASSPORT OFFICE, WHICH HAD NO LISTING FOR OSWALD ON ANY OF ITS WARNING LISTS, APPROVED HIS APPLICATION. THE FBI HAD NOT ASKED TO BE INFORMED OF ANY EFFORTS BY OSWALD TO OBTAIN A PASSPORT.

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"TWO" MONTHS LATER WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED IN A STREET FIGHT OVER HIS DISTRIBUTION OF PRO-CASTRO LITERATURE IN NEW ORLEANS, OSWALD ASKED THE POLICE TO ARRANGE AN FBI INTERVIEW WITH HIM. AGENT JOHN L. QUIGLEY, WHO DID NOT KNOW OSWALD'S PREVIOUS FBI BACKGROUND, DREW THE ASSIGNMENT. THE AGENT FOUND HIM RECEPTIVE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND BUT LESS THAN COOPERATIVE OR TRUTHFUL ABOUT THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.

ADVISED BY THE CIA IN OCTOBER 1963 THAT OSWALD HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY, THE FBI TOOK AN INTENSIFIED INTEREST IN HIS CASE.

LEARNING FROM NEIGHBORS THAT THE OSWALDS WERE NOW LIVING WITH MRS. RUTH PAINE IN IRVING, TEX., AGENT HOSTY WENT TO SEE HER.

MRS. PAINE SAID MARINA AND THE TWO OSWALD CHILDREN WERE LIVING WITH HER, THAT LEE HAD A ROOM SOMEWHERE IN DALLAS AND THAT HE WORKED AT THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY.

ON NOV. 5, AGENT HOSTY AGAIN DROPPED IN ON MRS. PAINE. THIS TIME HE LEARNED OSWALD'S DALLAS ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER; HEARD THAT OSWALD WAS NOW DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS "TROTSKYITE COMMUNIST" AND THAT HIS LANDLADY FOUND THESE AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS "ILLOGICAL AND SOMEWHAT AMUSING."

THIS WAS THE LAST TIME ANY FBI AGENT VISITED THE OSWALDS PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION. HAVING DETERMINED THAT OSWALD WAS NOT EMPLOYED IN A SENSITIVE INDUSTRY, HOSTY DECIDED TO AWAIT FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE ON THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA EPISODES BEFORE CONDUCTING OTHER INTERVIEWS. AT THE TIME, HE WAS WORKING ON OTHER CASES.

THE LAST FBI NOTATION ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD DROPPED INTO HIS FILE ON NOV. 18, WHEN HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON LEARNED THAT OSWALD HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IT WAS RELAYED TO DALLAS OFFICE IN "THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS" AND REACHED AGENT HOSTY AT AN IRONIC TIME: ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOV. 22.

LIKE THE SECRET SERVICE, THE DALLAS POLICE DID NOT KNOW OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S EXISTENCE IN A ROOMING HOUSE IN THE CITY.

THE FBI OFFICE IN DALLAS HAD GIVEN THE SECRET SERVICE THE NAME OF "ONE POSSIBLY DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL, WHO WAS INVESTIGATED." HIS OR HER NAME WAS NOT REVEALED IN THE REPORT. IT WAS NOT LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

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