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FBI 'Coverup' on Oswald Reported

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Houston

For at least five months after the assassination of President Kennedy, the FBI and the Dallas police covered up a conversation indicating the FBI knew before the slaying that Lee Harvey Oswald was a threat to the President, the Houston Chronicle reported yesterday.

The newspaper also reported that the Warren Commission, which investigated the 1963 assassination, did not fully look into the reported conversation when it learned of it in May, 1964.

J. E. Curry, then Dallas police chief, informed Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren of the FBI's reported prior knowledge in a registered letter, the Chronicle said. The newspaper printed a copy in yesterday's edition.

Curry wrote:

"On that date (November 22), before newsmen, I stated that I had received information that the FBI knew of Oswald's presence in

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Dallas and that the Dallas Police Department had no information on Oswald in its files. This statement was based on the report of Lieutenant (Jack) Revill."

Three hours after Mr. Kennedy was killed, Revill said he ran into FBI agent James Hosty in the basement of the Dallas City Hall. Hosty told Revill that the FBI knew that Oswald could be a threat to the president, Revill said in a statement he eventually repeated to the Warren Commission.

Contacted by the Chronicle, Revill stood by his statement.

"It (the meeting) happened," Revill said. "I know it happened, and Hosty knows it happened."

Revill said he returned to the police department with Hosty's information and wrote it down for Chief Curry, who then told newsmen that the FBI knew of Oswald's presence in Dallas.

In the registered letter to Warren, Curry wrote:

"Within a few minutes of my statement to the press, I received a telephone call from Mr. Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas office of the FBI, in which Mr. Shanklin stated that the bureau was extremely desir-

ous that I retract my statement to the press. I then appeared before the press again and retracted my statement . . ."

Curry also told Revill to keep silent about the information, according to Curry's letter to Warren.

When contacted by the Chronicle, Curry said: "There's no doubt in my mind that his agent told my agent (Revill) what he did."

If the FBI had told him about Oswald, Curry said, "I'd have had somebody sitting on him."

Curry now says he would have acted differently after receiving Shanklin's call.

"I probably would have (revealed Revill's whole statement) even though I'd know it would make the FBI mad as hell because I had confidence in my lieutenant that gave me the information and it was checked out and found to be true," he told the Chronicle.

Hosty is now an FBI agent based in Kansas City.

"I'm still with the bureau," he told the Chronicle. "I like my job. I can't say anything about anything."

Shanklin, now an attorney in Dallas, denied asking Curry to suppress the information.

"I may have called Curry about one thing or another," Shanklin said, "but I don't remember calling him to tell him to suppress anything. I don't know what he's talking about."

The Chronicle said a copy of the Revill statement and other data indicating a five-month coverup of his statement are on record in the Texas State Archives in Austin, Tex., as part of an assassination investigation made by the Texas Court of Inquiry.

United Press