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New Disclosure About Oswald Note to the FBI

Washington

A former assistant FBI director apparently was aware that Lee Harvey Oswald left a threatening note at the agency's Dallas office shortly before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, a deputy associate FBI director said yesterday.

The note has been destroyed and the official, James B. Adams, said FBI employees have presented conflicting information about the note's contents and its destruction.

The note's existence was not revealed until last July.

Adams said former assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan reported learning of the note at the time of the assassination investigation from the agent who was directing the FBI office in Dallas.

But that agent, now retired, has denied any knowledge of the note, its destruction, or a visit by Oswald to the agency's office at which time the message was left, Adams said.

Adams testified under oath before the House Judiciary subcommittee on constitutional and

He also said:

- He had no knowledge that Oswald, whom the Warren Commission said acted alone in killing Kennedy, or Jack Ruby, Oswald's assassin, were paid informants of the FBI or any other government agency.

- The only motive found for destruction of the note was a desire by the agent who received

it to avoid embarrassing the bureau of himself.

- The Department of Justice decided the statute of limitations prohibited it from prosecuting any FBI employee for possible destruction or withholding of evidence. However, he said that conflicting reports the employees gave during interviews could lead to perjury charges and that FBI agents in Washington and Dallas have been disciplined in connection with their handling of assassination evidence.

He said destruction of the note violated FBI rules.

Adams said Sullivan, who was in charge of the agency's

intelligence division, "said he thought it was common knowledge at FBI headquarters that a threatening message had been received from Oswald."

But two supervisors named by Sullivan as possibly knowing about the letter denied having any such information, Adams said.

Adams said Sullivan reported that the agent in charge of the Dallas office once mentioned that "he had an internal problem involving one of his agents who had received a threatening message from Oswald."

But Sullivan never asked to see the message because there were "rumors galore" after the shooting, he said.

Adams said Sullivan also said the Dallas agent in charge "seemed disinclined to discuss the matter" except to say that it was being handled as a personal problem by an assistant to the late director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover.

Adams did not mention the Hoover assistant or Sullivan by name in his testimony but confirmed for reporters after the hearing that Hoover's assistant was John P. Mohr, who handled personnel and administrative matters. Similarly, he identified the assistant director as Sullivan.

Mohr, according to Adams, has denied any knowledge of the letter or any action taken on such information.

Adams also said there has been no indication that Hoover was ever aware of the letter or of Oswald's visit to the office.

However, reports of the orders involved in its destruction were in conflict.

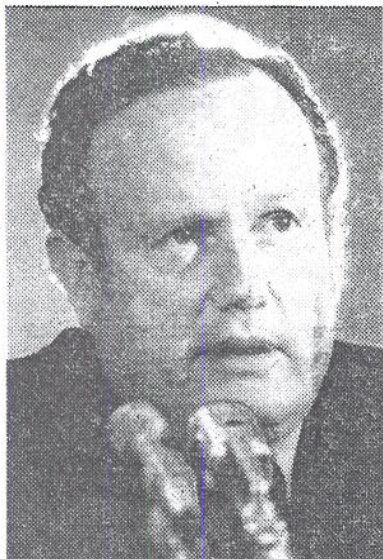
Adams said the agent who received the note reported destroying it two hours after Oswald died, Nov. 24, 1963.

The agent, according to Adams, said he was acting at the instruction of his supervisor who in turn acted under orders of the agent in charge of the office.

Adams said the agent's supervisor reported finding the note in the agent's workbox soon after the assassination occurred and said he gave it to the agent in charge, "But had no recollection where the note may have gone or who may have had it thereafter."

The agent in charge "has denied having any knowledge of Oswald's visit to the Dallas office or of Oswald's leaving a note there," Adams said.

Associated Press



UPI Telephoto

JAMES B. ADAMS
The note was destroyed

Adams said the note's destruction was discussed in nearly 80 interviews the agency has conducted since Director Clarence M. Kelley was told of the message July 7.