

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 16, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter of July 14, 1964.

Special Agent Manning C. Clements advises that when he arrived at the office of Chief Curry at approximately 1:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963, Chief Curry was not in his office and the Agent's best present estimate as to the time Chief Curry arrived is approximately 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. He recalled specifically that Curry's arrival was after Oswald was on the premises of the Dallas Police Department. When he observed Chief Curry in his office, he conveyed the message to Chief Curry personally in substantially the language set forth in his report dated November 30, 1963. Agent Clements had been instructed to deliver this message by Mr. J. Gordon Shanklin, Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Office of the FBI. No other person is recalled by Agent Clements as having been present when he spoke to Chief Curry.

With respect to Mr. Clements' testimony before the President's Commission, Mr. Clements has advised that it is his recollection that he did not make a direct statement that he was not a "conduit for any information that the FBI had concerning Oswald to the Dallas Police Department," but rather when the question, "Did you serve as a conduit for

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

any information from FBI files to the Police Department relative to Oswald?" was put to him by Mr. Samuel A. Stern of the President's Commission, he replied "No" without further comment.

Mr. Clements stated that his answer is factual in that he was at no time instructed to furnish and he did not furnish to the Police Department or anyone else information from prior investigation concerning Oswald.

With regard to my testimony before the President's Commission wherein I referred to a message I sent to Chief Curry requesting that the Dallas Police refrain from announcing to the press details regarding the progress of the investigation into the assassination, Mr. Shanklin states that at 3:15 p.m. on November 24, 1963, he personally telephoned Chief Curry and talked to him concerning the amount of publicity that was being afforded the case. He pointed out to Chief Curry that the President of the United States was concerned over the amount of publicity that was being given out by Chief of Police Curry and Captain Fritz. Chief Curry stated that he was in full agreement that too much publicity was being given out and that he personally would cease answering further questions concerning the matter and would assure that Captain Fritz who had been giving additional statements would do likewise.

Mr. James R. Malley, who was in Dallas at the time, states that on November 25, 1963, Chief Curry was in telephonic contact with him and referred to the fact that the City Manager of Dallas had been in touch with Chief Curry and was insisting that he make a release to the press concerning the case that the Police Department had against Oswald. The release was to be to the effect that at a proper time when the investigation had reached a status where it would be proper to do so evidence against Oswald would be documented and made available to the public. Curry stated he was getting considerable pressure from the City Manager and desired to clear the matter with Mr. Malley. At that time Mr. Malley pointed out to Chief Curry that he had been in touch with Captain Fritz on the evening of November 24, 1963, in Chief Curry's absence and had passed on the President's grave concern over the amount of publicity that was emanating from Dallas.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2072



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 4, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

Mr. Malley again contacted Chief Curry at 12:50 p.m. on November 27, 1963, and brought to his attention the President's concern over the publicity that was still being released. Chief Curry advised that he was not making any press releases of any kind, that he had specifically requested individuals in his Department to refrain from making comments to the press, but was having difficulty in controlling this phase of the Police Department's activities. Chief Curry assured Mr. Malley that he would make every effort to see that no comments were made and said that he personally had not made any comments since this matter had been discussed with him on Sunday, November 24, 1963.

Sincerely yours,

Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter of February 3, 1964, setting forth information concerning a slip of paper bearing four telephone numbers which was found in one of the pockets of the trousers worn by Oswald at the time he was shot by Jack Ruby. Inquiry concerning this matter has been made by our Dallas Office and the following information is submitted:

Captain J. W. Fritz, Homicide and Robbery Bureau, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, advised that Oswald requested permission to call Attorney John Abt in New York City but did not have his telephone number. Captain Fritz told Oswald he could call collect and that he would have to give the operator the name of the person he wanted without the number and it being an attorney in New York, the operator would locate Abt and furnish the telephone number to him. Captain Fritz also told Oswald the operator would want to know the number he was calling from. In this connection, it is noted the telephone number RI 8-9711 appears on the dial of the telephone in the jail and this was one of the four numbers on the piece of paper found in Oswald's trousers.

Captain Fritz advised that when Oswald was permitted to use the telephone, one of the jail officers, Jim Poppelwell, took Oswald from his cell to the phone and Oswald tried to call his attorney collect. He obtained the telephone number from the operator and Oswald then commented he could not recall the number and asked Poppelwell to get him paper and a pencil in order to write the number down. Captain Fritz stated that the calling of an attorney and the furnishing of a pencil and paper to the prisoner to write were all within the regulations of the city jail.