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May 18, 1964

J. Lee Rankin, Esq.
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

As per your request in your letter to me, dated May 12, 1964, I submit a statement relating to the false story planted by an agent of the United States Secret Service with the press.

A Secret Service agent by the name of Mike Howard, while in the presence of his brother Pat Howard, a Deputy Sheriff of Tarrant County, falsely gave information to Thayer Waldo, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star Telegram. The statement made by Mike Howard consisted of, among other comments, the following:

"Wait 'till that old black boy gets up in front of the Warren Commission and tells his story. That will settle everything. Yes, sir. He was right there on the same floor, looking out the next window; and, after the first shot, he looked and saw Oswald, and then he ran. I saw him in the Dallas police station. He was the scariest nigger I ever seen. I heard him tell the officer, 'Man, you don't know how fast fast is, because you didn't see me run that day.' He said he ran and hid behind the boxes because he was afraid that Oswald would shoot him."

Mike Howard then explained that the Negro witness had been arrested in the past by the Special Services office of the Dallas Police for gambling; and, since he was familiar with that branch of the Dallas Police, he immediately gave himself up to that branch. Mr. Howard alleged that he had visited the Negro witness while he was in the custody of the Special Services in the Dallas jail. Mr. Howard then said that the witness had been moved to another place, but that he, Howard, did not know where the witness had been moved. After Waldo had the

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story published in the Fort Worth Star Telegram, Pat Howard called Waldo and said, "You didn't quote Mike, did you, you didn't mention his name?" When Waldo indicated that he had protected his source, Pat Howard stated, "Well, good boy, good boy. This ought to pick up some excitement."

In addition to the fact that it hardly seems correct that an agent of the United States Secret Service would use such epithets in describing a citizen who pays his salary, one must be concerned that an agency upon which your Commission is relying for accuracy in reporting seems to have planted a false story with the press.

In relation to my encounter with the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I submit the following statement:

At 10:07 a.m., Wednesday, April 29, as I was leaving my house, two men approached me as I crossed the street from my house diagonally in a northerly and westerly direction. It was raining slightly, and the two men approached me from the rear and then stood in front of me, preventing my forward progress. The first gentleman to speak told me that he wanted to know if I had in my possession files which I held illegally and which I had illegally secured from the office of the F.B.I. I asked him who he was, and he said he was a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I asked to see his credentials, which he flashed. But, when I then requested an opportunity to see them more fully, he held them out in his right hand, and there were two cards in a leather-type case hinged horizontally across the middle. The cards purported to identify the gentleman as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and indicated that his name is William E. Folkner and that his Serial Number is 5954. I repeated the same procedure with the other gentleman. His name was John P. Di Marchi and his Serial Number was 4256.

Mr. Folkner then repeated his request in reference to whether I had information which I illegally secured from the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I asked Mr. Folkner what led him to such a conclusion. He said, "We have confidential information that you have illegally obtained F.B.I. reports." I told Mr. Folkner and Mr. DiMarchi that I had made reference in my testimony before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy to all of the documents in my possession and that, since that was a Commission established by the United States Government and since the F.B.I. was an agency of the United States Government, I would direct the F.B.I. to the President's Commission to determine what information was in my possession. I further stated that I did not like to be accosted in the rain in front of my house by agents of the Federal Police Force and that, since I was an attorney and had an office in New York City, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, if it sought any information of me, might do so by writing a letter to me, which is the same system employed by other agencies of the government when they wish to communicate with me. Mr. Folkner then replied that they had nothing to do with the Warren Commission and that

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they wanted the documents from me directly. He said that my answer seemed to him to be an admission that I did have documents illegally obtained from the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in my possession; and, in a loud and firm voice, he stepped closer to me and said, "I now demand that you give to me all of the documents in your possession which you have illegally obtained from the files of the F.B.I."

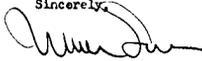
I left them after excusing myself and hailed a taxi cab driven by Alvin Weinstein, whose cab license is No. 70372.

(End of Statement)

I am not now in a position to reveal the name of my source for the information regarding the meeting between Officer Tippit, Bernard Weissman, and the third person whose name I submitted to the Commission in executive session.

As per your previous request, I enclose the exhibits. I understand that you will copy the exhibits and then return the originals to me.

Sincerely,



Mark Lane

ML:dg

Enclosure

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