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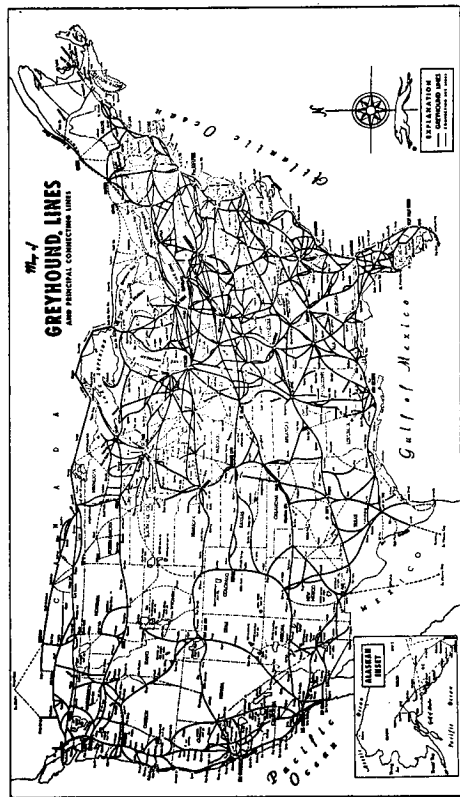
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In Reply, Please Refer to
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Other Individuals and Organizations
Washington 25, D. C.
May 28, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

On May 27, 1964, Special Agent James H. (Mike) Howard, United States Secret Service, was interviewed in the presence of Inspector Thomas J. Kelley, Secret Service, by a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with regard to an article which appeared in the May 9, 1964, issue of the "National Guardian", a weekly newspaper published in New York City. The article under discussion bore the caption, "Oswald Case: A New Angle", and information set out therein was attributed to Attorney Mark Lane.

Special Agent Howard explained that on Sunday morning, February 9, 1964, he, along with his brother, Pat G. Howard, Deputy Sheriff of the Tarrant County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, was assigned to transport Mrs. Marguerite Oswald from her residence at 2220 Thomas Place, Fort Worth, Texas, to Love Field, Dallas, Texas, where Mrs. Oswald was to take a plane to Washington, D. C., for purposes of her appearance before the President's Commission. Special Agent Howard further stated that at the insistence of Mrs. Oswald, he and his brother also were accompanied by Thayer Waldo, who, Mrs. Oswald explained, was making the trip with her from Fort Worth to Dallas at the suggestion of her attorney, Mark Lane. Howard related that after Mrs. Oswald was placed aboard the plane, he and his brother, along with Special Agent in Charge Forrest V. Sorrels of the Dallas office of Secret Service, went into the airport restaurant or coffee shop, also accompanied by Waldo. The news column in the "National Guardian" alleged certain conversation between Deputy Sheriff Pat Howard and Waldo and Special Agent Mike Howard stated he had no knowledge whatsoever of any such conversation between Waldo and Deputy Howard.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2578

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

Agent Howard related at the airport Waldo asked if Agent Howard would give him a ride back to Fort Worth from Love Field and Agent Howard acquiesced inasmuch as he was driving his personally-owned vehicle. En route to Fort Worth, Agent Howard drove the car with his brother, Pat Howard, riding in the front seat and Waldo was riding in the rear seat alone. During the ride Agent Howard, in discussion with his brother, related to his brother Pat a story which Agent Howard had been told on January 1, 1964, while on a special detail accompanied by two detectives of the Dallas Police Department. On that occasion Detective Jack Bryan had told Agent Howard about an incident involving a Negro man who was questioned by the Dallas police in connection with his being in the Texas Book Depository Building on the day of the assassination of President Kennedy and that the Negro man had left the building hurriedly after the shooting. When later questioned by Dallas police why he had left the building in a hurry, the Negro man stated that because he had a police record, he feared he would be suspected of having been involved in the shooting.

Special Agent Howard stated while relating this incident to his brother Pat, he did not know Waldo, in the back seat of the car, could have overheard the conversation; however, Waldo leaned forward over the rear of the front seat and asked Agent Howard if this person, the Negro man who was the topic of conversation, would be called to testify before the Warren Commission. Agent Howard stated that in jest he replied to Waldo, "Why yes, I'm sure he will be". In response to a question by Waldo as to where this man was, Deputy Pat Howard replied jokingly, "They probably have him hidden out someplace."

Agent Howard stated neither he nor his brother, Pat Howard, realized Waldo was a newspaper reporter and later that night, after having returned to Fort Worth, he learned television and radio coverage had been given to a story attributed to Waldo that a witness who was to

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

testify before the Warren Commission was being hidden by police officers. Special Agent Howard stated the Fort Worth newspaper "Star-Telegram" carried a story by Waldo in the same vein and he immediately called Waldo telephonically to make inquiry where Waldo had gotten such a story. In reply Waldo told Agent Howard he (Waldo) had talked to his attorney and that Waldo did not have to divulge the source of his information and said Agent Howard had nothing to worry about. Agent Howard stated his brother, Pat Howard, also contacted Waldo telephonically and received a similar assurance.

Agent Howard stated that during the ride from Dallas back to Fort Worth with Waldo in the car, Agent Howard did not make any statements such as were attributed to him concerning, "Wait until that old black boy gets in front of the Warren Commission . . ." Agent Howard stated he did not make any statement to the effect that the Negro janitor was a witness to the shooting of the President. Agent Howard stated these alleged quotes attributed to him were entirely a fabrication.

With regard to the article in the "Nations Guardian", Agent Howard prepared a memorandum dated May 27, 1964, and a copy of this memorandum furnished by Inspector Thomas J. Kelley is attached hereto. Inspector Kelley furnished the copy on May 28, 1964.