

Exhibit A  
L. Nichols

C O P Y

February 10, 1964

Mr. Leon Jaworski  
Attorney at Law  
Bank of the Southwest Building  
Houston 2, Texas

Dear Leon:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 5, 1964 where you asked that I relate to you an account of my visit with Lee Harvey Oswald while he was in custody of the City of Dallas police.

On Saturday afternoon following the assassination on Friday, I was contacted by a lawyer friend of mine who wanted to know whether or not Oswald was being represented by an attorney at the time. I told him that I did not know, but would make an inquiry into the matter because it had occurred to me that some question might be raised as to his lack of representation during a critical time after his arrest.

I then contacted a Dallas attorney who is active in the practice of criminal law and asked him to give me his opinion as to the requirements of the State law for an appointment of an attorney by the Court. He advised me that under the State law, there would be no obligation for the Court to appoint an attorney until the man had been indicted by a Grand Jury. Since there had been no indictment at that time, he thought there was no obligation for an attorney to be appointed.

I then contacted the District Attorney to determine whether or not he knew if Oswald was then represented by an attorney. He advised me that so far as he knew, Oswald was not then represented by an attorney, nor had he made any demand or request that an attorney be appointed to represent him or made available to him.

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I then contacted a Captain on the City of Dallas Police Force to determine whether or not Oswald was represented by an attorney or whether he had made any demand for an attorney. This Captain, who is an administrative assistant to the Chief of Police, advised me that so far as he knew, Oswald was not then represented by an attorney, and that he had made no request of the Police that an attorney be made available to him or that he be permitted to call any attorney. He further stated that so far as he knew, when Oswald appeared before the Magistrate on Friday night, that no request had been made by Oswald that an attorney be appointed. The Captain further stated that he understood that efforts were being made by someone to contact an attorney in New York who might be interested in representing Oswald. I asked the Captain to advise me that if Oswald desired an attorney and did not have one, that the Dallas Bar Association would attempt to see that one was made available to him. The Captain then advised me that I was perfectly welcome to come down and see Oswald and determine myself whether or not Oswald desired an attorney. I told the Captain that I had not yet decided whether or not anything needed to be done, but that I would be in touch with him if I should decide to come down to the City Hall.

After discussing the matter with two or three other attorneys, I concluded that perhaps it would be wise if I went down to the City Hall and see Oswald, and see for myself that he was not being deprived of his rights to an attorney and that if he desired to have the Court or the Bar Association to provide an attorney for him.

At about 5:00 or 5:30PM Saturday afternoon, I then went to the City Hall and went to the office of the Chief of Police. The Chief said that he was glad to see me and he personally took me to the jail where Oswald was located. The Chief introduced me to Oswald and offered to make available a place for me to talk to Oswald, but I advised him that the cell would be satisfactory. The Chief then stepped back so as to permit me to converse with Oswald without any interference on his part.

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I again introduced myself to Oswald and advised him that I was President of the Dallas Bar Association and had come up to determine whether or not he had an attorney to represent him or whether he desired that the Dallas Bar Association do anything toward obtaining an attorney to represent him. Mr. Oswald stated that he desired to be represented by an attorney named John Apt or Apt of New York City and asked me if I knew this lawyer. I told him that I did not. He then asked me if I knew any Dallas lawyer who was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. I told him I did not. He then stated that he was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. I again asked him whether he desired that either I or the Dallas Bar Association do anything at that time toward getting him an attorney to represent him. He stated that if he could not get the New York lawyer or if he could not get a lawyer who was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union to represent him, and if there was an attorney in Dallas who believed as he did, and believed in the things he believed in, and believed in his innocence as such as he could, that he might call on us in the following week about getting such a lawyer. I again asked him if he wanted anything done at this time. He stated that he did not, but that I might contact him during the following week and he would let me know whether or not he desired the Dallas Bar Association to do anything.

After satisfying myself that he knew what he was doing and that he did not appear to be in a position of being deprived of his rights to counsel, and after satisfying myself that he did not desire that either I or the Dallas Bar Association do anything at that time, I then left.

I was with Mr. Oswald probably 4 or 5 minutes and satisfied myself that he appeared to be in a position to know what he wanted and that he did not desire my services or the Bar's services to do anything for him at that time.

At no time while I was in with him did he indicate that he had been deprived of an opportunity to call a lawyer or to otherwise seek legal advice, nor did he indicate to me in any way that he had been mistreated. He merely stated that he had been held incommunicado and didn't know what it was all about.

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My personal reaction was that Oswald was in full control of his faculties, and was neither belligerent nor did he appear to be frightened or subdued and that he did not desire the Dallas Bar Association to provide him counsel, but felt that if he did not get a lawyer of his own choosing to represent him, that an attorney would be made available if requested by him.

I trust that this information is sufficient to answer your inquiry regarding this matter, but if there is anything further that I can do, please let me know.

With personal best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

H. Louis Nichols

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