

Ex 3001 - Deposition of W. W. Semingsen - 3/21/64

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY Dallas  
GULF DIVISION  
1416 COMMERCE ST.  
DALLAS 1, TEXAS

W. W. SEMINGSEN  
VICE PRESIDENT

T. C. S.  
W. W.  
W. W. S.

- 1 -

Statement prepared by W. W. Semingsen, Vice President, Western Union Telegraph Company, Dallas, Texas, for reference and use as testimony at the hearing of the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, pursuant to the request of the Commission's General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, in letters of March 19 and 20, 1964.

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At the request of and in cooperation with agents of the FBI and Secret Service, a search of our message and money order files was made by W/U supervisory personnel at various locations, viz., Dallas, Fort Worth and Irving, Texas, and New Orleans, La., for messages and money orders sent or received by Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases and Jack Ruby. The search of our files covered specific dates or periods designated by the government agents. The offices at which the message and money order files were searched, the dates, and results thereof are as follows:

Dallas, Texas

For money orders payable to Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases, O. H. Lee and Alek James Hidell -  
June through November 1963  
Result : Negative

For telegrams sent by Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases -  
September 1 through November 22, 1963  
Result: Negative

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Dallas, Texas (Continued)

For money orders payable to Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases or to anyone at a specific address in Dallas - October through November, 1963  
Result: Negative

For money orders sent by Jack Ruby - June through November 24, 1963  
Result:

①

Money order dated November 24, 1963, filed at 11:17 A.M., payable to Karen Bennett, Will Call, Fort Worth, Texas, amount \$25.00, from Jack Ruby.

For money orders received by Jack Ruby - June through November 30, 1963  
Result:

②

Money order from Ann Arbor, Mich., November 24, 1963, to Jack Ruby from J. D. Harrison, \$5.00, containing supplementary message.

②

Money order from Los Angeles, Calif., November 24, 1963, to Jack Ruby from Paul L. Cowperthwaite, \$10.00, containing supplementary message.

②

Money order from Asbury Park, N. Jer., November 24, 1963, to Jack Rubbin from Frank Dragotta, \$100.00, containing supplementary message.

For telegrams sent by Jack Ruby on specific dates designated by FBI -  
Result:

③

Five telegrams on the specific dates were produced and shown to FBI agent. These telegrams were of a social or business nature and not pertinent to the investigation.

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Dallas, Texas (Continued)

(4)

In addition to the foregoing, a telegram dated Painesville, Ohio, January 13, 1964, to Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald, Dallas, Texas, signed by Mrs. Mary Muntian, 10857 Johnny Cake Ridge, Painesville, Ohio, was reported to the FBI even though it appeared to be of questionable use because of the nature of its text.

Irving, Texas

For money orders payable to Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases -

July through November, 1963

Result - Negative

Fort Worth, Texas

For money orders payable to Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases -

July 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 27, 29 - 1963.

Result: Negative

(Oral report given to FBI agent, Ft. Worth)

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① of

For money order payable to Karen Bennett, Will Call, Fort Worth, Texas, from Jack Ruby, Dallas, Texas, November 24, 1963, amount \$25.00.

New Orleans, La.

For money orders sent or received by Lee Harvey Oswald and aliases -

June through November, 1963

Result: Negative

(Oral report given to FBI agent, New Orleans)

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On December 9, 1963, at a meeting in the office of W. W. Semingsen, Vice President, Western Union Telegraph Company, Dallas, Texas, an oral report of our investigation and search of files was given to investigating agents C. T. Brown of FBI and Elmer W. Moore of Secret Service. They were shown the original money order application and copy of receipt given to Jack Ruby of money order filed by him on November 24, 1963, in Dallas, and the received money order and receipt of payment to Karen Bennett in Fort Worth. These records are available for the President's investigating commission.

The accepting employee Doyle Lane of Dallas and the employee making payment of the money order, J. M. Strong of Fort Worth, are present for giving testimony in connection with their participation in the handling of the money order.

It may be of interest to the Commission to know of the independent action taken by W/U management immediately following President Kennedy's assassination and the subsequent killing of the alleged assassin by Jack Ruby.

All of the employees in the Dallas office who might have had occasion to have had contact with Oswald or Ruby in the handling of telegrams or money orders were thoroughly questioned by W/U management personnel.

None knew Oswald or could identify him as having sent or received telegrams or money orders at any time. One of our employees thought he had recognized him as having received a money order and sent a telegram on separate occasions. A thorough investigation and search of our files failed to reveal such transactions.

Several of our employees could identify Ruby as having purchased Express Money Orders on various occasions.

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None could ~~Identify~~ associate Ruby in any way with Oswald.

Representatives of the W/U other than Messrs. Lane and Strong who participated in our investigation and search of message and money order files are:

L. R. Wilcox, District Manager, Dallas, Texas

T. R. Coats, District Manager, Fort Worth, Texas

who are present for questioning if the Commission desires.

Appended to this statement, which may be of interest to the Commission, are:

- ⑤ (1) Telegram of December 10, 1963, to W/U Vice President and General Counsel, J. H. Waters, New York, reporting on our investigation.
- ⑥ (2) Letters of December 19, 1963, to W. W. Semingsen and L. R. Wilcox from J. Edgar Hoover.
- ⑦ (3) Letter of November 27, 1963, to W/U Vice President G. S. Paul, New York, reporting W/U activities incident to President Kennedy's assassination.



Prepared by:  
W. W. Semingsen  
Vice President  
The Western Union Telegraph Co.  
Dallas, Texas

March 30, 1964

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