

Exhibit No. 3004 on disposition of
Lawrence R. Wilcox or Dallas, Tex.
3/3/64 WJC

LEGAL - Subpoenas; Production of Messages

J. M. Wilcox

Dallas, December 2, 1963
52-5

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Semingsen: (2)

This letter refers to the exchange of telegrams on November 30 with Mr. Paul, and your conversation by telephone December 1 with Mr. Bradford of my office regarding certain telegrams or money orders sent or received by Jack Ruby or Lee Harvey Oswald within recent weeks.

We have received inquiries from the following sources regarding the money order sent by Jack Ruby to Ft. Worth, November 24:

F.B.I.
U. S. Secret Service
Dallas Police
Newspaper reporters

In each case, the person or persons making inquiry were informed that if a subpoena was properly presented, we would have the message or money order Ruby is reported to have sent or received presented to the proper authorities. The subpoena must of course fully describe such communications.

Lt. P. G. McCaghren and another officer from the Dallas Police Department called on Customer Service Manager W. L. Townsley and Senior Delivery Manager's Clerk D. E. Lane on Friday, November 29, regarding a \$25 money order sent by Jack Ruby at 11:17 A.M. on November 24 to Karen Bennet, Will Call, Ft. Worth, Texas. The officers requested Mr. Lane to

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identify Jack Ruby from numerous photographs they had in their possession at the time. Mr. Lane reports that he did identify Ruby to the officers. The officers then asked Mr. Lane approximately how much time elapsed between the time he accepted the money order from Ruby and the time he, Mr. Lane, stamped the filing time on it. Mr. Lane replied approximately two or three minutes. The officers questioned Mr. Lane if he had ever seen Ruby before and Mr. Lane answered in the affirmative; that he had waited on Ruby at the counter on several past occasions. This breach of our rules on the part of Mr. Lane is not considered too serious, since it is general knowledge by the press and others, through Ruby's own admission, that such a money order was sent by him; however, the matter has been fully reviewed with Mr. Lane.

On Sunday night, November 24, just before Late Night Manager Betty Bedwell reported for duty, one of the counter clerks on duty at the time made a verbal statement to Mrs. Bedwell similar to the following: "What did you think about 'your friend' Ruby killing Oswald?" Mrs. Bedwell replied that she would never have figured Ruby as that type person because he always seemed very mild mannered. Further conversation then developed between these two employees which apparently was overheard by two gentlemen from the press, who were sitting at a lobby desk. One of them began to question Mrs. Bedwell about Ruby. Mrs. Bedwell told the newspaper reporter that Mr. Ruby was just another customer and that she could not give him any information as to Ruby's business. The reporter continued to fire questions at Mrs. Bedwell such as: "Who did he wire money to, how much, where to, etc." Mrs. Bedwell replied that she did not know whether Ruby had wired money and she would not be able to say that he did even if she did know it for a fact. The reporter replied, "Well, just lost an exclusive." The name of the newspaper reporter was unknown to Mrs. Bedwell.

The following inquiries have been received regarding any messages and/or money orders sent or received involving Lee Harvey Oswald:

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F.B.I.
U. S. Secret Service
Dallas Police
Newspaper reporters

In all cases we have informed the person or persons making inquiry that we would need a regular subpoena fully describing any such records before they could be produced, for information of proper authorities.

Specifically, these inquiries have been made of us: on Saturday, November 30, FBI Agent Charley Brown called Mr. Townsley at his home and they discussed the amount of work involved, costs, and length of time it would take to search our files in an effort to locate the money orders and messages referred to in the Times Herald article. Mr. Brown informed Mr. Townsley that he wanted the information just in case his Washington headquarters office suddenly required him to have the search made and he wanted to be prepared. Messrs. Brown and Townsley did not discuss any particular telegram or money order, and Mr. Townsley did not disclose any information about any existing money order or message relative to Oswald. Mr. Townsley informed Mr. Brown that any specific information about any money order or message in our files must come through usual legal channels by means of a subpoena, etc.; that when it came time to make a search or to produce any records that he should get in touch with me.

At approximately 10:00 A.M. on November 30 Senior Supervisor E. D. Roth telephoned Assistant Operations Manager A. I. English at home and reported that FBI Agent Odum had requested him, Mr. Roth, to give him a copy of the press report filed by a Mr. O'Leary, addressed to the Evening Star, Washington, D.C., approximately 5,000 words. Mr. English told Mr. Roth to not give the press copy to Mr. Odum and that he, Mr. English, would be down to the office shortly.

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When Mr. English arrived at the office, Mr. Roth informed him that FBI Agent Odum was apparently with Mr. O'Leary at the Adolphus Hotel, and that Mr. Odum would call back by telephone. Mr. English told Mr. Roth that we would be glad to furnish Mr. O'Leary, sender of the press, with a confirmation copy of his press report upon proper identification and at the usual cost. Mr. English then proceeded to run off a confirmation copy which is now filed with the carbon copy of this letter to you. Later in the day Mr. Odum did call back on the telephone and still wanted the press copy. Mr. Odum was informed that we could not give it to him but would be glad to turn it over to Mr. O'Leary, the sender. Mr. Odum then stated that Mr. O'Leary had left town and we heard nothing further from him.

Mr. English received a telephone call from FBI Agent Brown at approximately 12:00 P.M. November 30, and said that he had previously handled matters with Mr. Townsley, but could not get him on the telephone. Mr. Brown then told Mr. English about the Times Herald article and stated that since the Herald was so definite about the matter his Washington office would insist that he find out the facts. Mr. English again told Mr. Brown that he knew absolutely nothing about the matter and did not know where the Herald had obtained the information; that it appeared to him a reporter perhaps had enlarged upon some small bit of information from some source.

When the Times Herald dated November 30 hit the streets we received inquiries from various reporters. One was from a Mr. Whittiker of UPI and the other, we believe, was from Mr. Dugger of the Washington Post. Mr. English told both gentlemen that he knew nothing of the Herald article. When these inquiries started coming in, Mr. English put out a bulletin to all departments reminding all concerned again about the importance of secrecy of communications.

Later in the day on November 30 two other reporters questioned Mr. English about the Times Herald

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article. The name of one of the men was a Mr. King of UPI and the other was connected with NBC. Mr. English told both gentlemen that he knew nothing about the article and that he knew nothing of any such messages or money orders and, in any event, court procedure is always necessary to obtain any communications filed by the public.

Mr. English was telephoned at his home at approximately 5:00 P.M. on November 30 by Mr. Gettis of the Dallas Morning News. Mr. Gettis asked about the Herald article and Mr. Gettis was given the same answer as previously given the UPI and NBC representatives. Mr. Gettis then asked whether or not there had been a breach of security. Mr. English reported that he did not think so as our employees were regularly reminded of the rules in this connection. Mr. Gettis was told that copies of any messages or money orders could be obtained only through set court procedures.

When all of this broke Mr. English, called our class 9-C Agent, Mr. Shores, at Irving, Texas and reminded him of Rule 24 of the Tariff Book, and Mr. Shores said he and his employees strictly observed that rule. However, Mr. Shores did say that any money orders to Mrs. Oswald were turned over to the Irving Police; that he understood Secret Service men wanted to see them. Mr. Shores was informed that unless money orders were addressed in care of the police, he should arrange to deliver them as addressed. Mr. Shores was very cooperative and we do not believe there were any unguarded statements made by him to outsiders. We are looking into the matter of delivering Mrs. Oswald's money orders in care of the Irving police and a further report will be made to you if any important information is developed in this regard.

We are continuing our investigation of this whole affair and a further report will be made to you, as soon as Early Night Manager C. A. Hamblen and other employees are questioned.


District Manager

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