

Ex. No. 3015 on deposit
of Lawrence R. Wilcox at
Dallas, Texas, 3/31/64

LEGAL - Subpoenas; Production of Messages

J. Wilcox

Dallas, December 6, 1963
52-5

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Semingsen: (3)

Please refer to my two previous letters December 2 and December 3, regarding the recent newspaper article in the Times Herald, with reference to the Oswald case.

Following is a brief resume regarding the search of our files for any telegrams sent by or money orders received by Lee Harvey Oswald.

A news article appeared in the Dallas Times Herald November 30, 1963, stating that Oswald received small amounts of money ranging up to \$10.00 or possibly \$20.00 at a time via Western Union for several months prior to the assassination of President Kennedy; that Oswald sent a telegram himself, printed in a curious, crowded script only a few days before the assassination; and that Oswald was remembered at Western Union because he invariably argued with those employees who assisted him. Copies of these newspaper articles are attached.

After the article appeared in the Times Herald November 30, we were besieged by inquiries from the press, Dallas Police, FBI, and U. S. Secret Service for more definite information than that which appeared in the Times Herald.

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We questioned and obtained written statements from all employees in our office who may have had occasion to be queried about messages or money orders purported to have been sent or received by Oswald. After reviewing the statements made by our employees, we have concluded that the information appearing in the Dallas Times Herald was the result of the conversation between Early Night Manager C. A. Hamblen and Bob Fenley, a reporter for the Dallas Times Herald

The information contained in the Times Herald article was identical to that which Mr. Hamblen gave me verbally on Tuesday, November 26, when he was telling me of his experiences with Oswald. This same information appeared in the Kansas City newspapers, Kansas City, where I was visiting over the Thanksgiving holidays, and I immediately recognized the information as being the same as that which Mr. Hamblen had told me November 26. Following Mr. Hamblen's statement to me on November 26, I asked that he describe this message fully to Mr. Pirtle, Bookkeeping Manager, and then ask Mr. Pirtle to send the message to me under personal cover. When Mr. Pirtle read the article in the Dallas Times Herald, November 30, he immediately recalled that the information was the same as that given to him verbally by Mr. Hamblen.

We have made a thorough search of our cash sent paid and sent collect message files for the period September 1 through November 22, 1963, for messages signed by Lee Harvey Oswald or his known aliases, Alek James Hidell and O. H. Lee, but no messages were found.

We have carefully checked through all money orders paid through Dallas branch offices and messenger stations for the entire months of September, October, and November, 1963, and were unable to locate any money orders payable to Alek James

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Hidell, O. H. Lee, or Lee Harvey Oswald. We have completed a search of will call Main Office files for September, October and November, 1963, but did not find any money orders payable to Alek James Hidell, O. H. Lee, or Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mr. Hamblen's written statement refers to a money order made payable to Oswald several weeks ago on which Mr. A. L. Lewis, Relief Clerk, had difficulty in paying. Mr. Lewis has stated he does not recall the payee's name and that the transaction in question was a money order addressed to someone at the YMCA, 605 North Ervay Street, and that the date of the occurrence was Tuesday, October 29, 1963. We have searched the paid money orders and extracted all money orders payable to anyone at the YMCA during October and November in an effort to locate the money order which both Messrs. Hamblen and Lewis say Mr. Lewis had difficulty in paying. Mr. Lewis does not recognize any of the several money orders that were extracted as covering the particular case he and Mr. Hamblen alluded to.

Since we find no trace of any message sent by or money orders received by Oswald under his right name or his aliases, it appears to me that Mr. Hamblen's statement is purely a figment of imagination and that no such records exist.

Mr. Hamblen stated to me yesterday, December 5, that the message filed by the party he is confident was Oswald, was a paid night letter filed about ten days prior to November 22, addressed to the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C. I had all the cash messages destined Washington, D.C. from the latter part of October through November 22, extracted from our files. There were four such messages. In addition, because of the peculiar type of printing, one other message destined Boston and one to Brazil was also included for Mr. Hamblin to review, but he did not find the message in question.

He stated that the message he saw was a night letter accounted for as a cash message by Mrs. McClure and that he assisted in the acceptance of the message because the sender was insisting on a report of physical delivery of the message. After he explained the method of delivery and the price of the report of delivery, Mr. Hamblen stated the sender decided not to request the report of delivery. Mr. Hamblen's statement is attached.

We have searched the message files about three times for this message without any success and have also matched out all cash messages with the cash sheets turned in by Mrs. McClure to see if we can account for all the cash messages she accepted during the period November 1 to November 21 inclusive. All her cash messages were accounted for, and nothing was found that even resembles the message Mr. Hamblen describes. In my opinion this positively proves his entire story to be fictitious.

With reference to the newspaper article by Henry Machirella, titled "Dallas Walks With Guilt", November 26, appearing in a New York newspaper, I have thoroughly questioned all employees who wait on the counter and who may have had occasion to make such a statement to the newspaper reporter and so far have been unable to find any employee who may have made such a remark as that quoted in the news article.

I am making this an occasion to reissue the instructions pertaining to secrecy of communications in an effort to again impress all employees with the urgency of not divulging information regarding communication matters to unauthorized persons.

Statements made by all employees obtained during our investigation are also attached for your information.


District Manager

Att.
