



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Commission Exhibit No. 2977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas
May 19, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

The President's Commission, by letter dated April 30, 1964, requested that Mr. ROBERT ADRIAN TAYLOR be reinterviewed concerning the rifle which he had purchased from an individual he thought to be LEE HARVEY OSWALD in March or April 1963.

On May 13, 1964, ROBERT ADRIAN TAYLOR, residing in Apartment 1, at the corner of Jalmak Avenue and Hard Rock Road, Grand Prairie, Texas, advised his mailing address is Route 1, Box 125G, Grand Prairie, Texas. TAYLOR said that since April 15, 1964, he has been employed by the City of Dallas, Dallas, Texas, driving a wrecker for the Police Department Wrecker Service. TAYLOR said he was born June 13, 1916, at Loyalsville, Pennsylvania.

TAYLOR said he was previously employed as a mechanic at the Shell Service Station on the southwest corner of Rock Island and Story Streets, Irving, Texas. He said while thusly employed in March or April, 1963, two men drove into the station complaining of engine trouble in their car. He determined that the generator of the automobile needed repairs and total cost would be \$11.50 to make these repairs. TAYLOR stated that between the two they did not have \$11.50, at which time the passenger riding in the car asked him if he would like to buy a rifle. TAYLOR replied that he might be interested, at which time one of the two men opened the trunk of the car and said, "There it is."

TAYLOR asked what kind of a gun it was, and received the reply that it is an "O Six." TAYLOR advised he took the weapon out of the trunk, looked at it and offered \$12.00. The driver of the vehicle then said, "You're not going to let it go for that. You paid \$35.00 for it." The passenger then replied, "No, we need the money."

TAYLOR advised he obtained \$12.00 out of the cash drawer and purchased the rifle. He then proceeded to repair the generator

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and charged them \$11.50, which they paid, and departed. TAYLOR stated he does not recall the make and model of the automobile, but believes it was a 1959 Chevrolet. As to the exact date that this transpired, TAYLOR said he could not give a closer approximation of the time he purchased the rifle, other than March or April, 1963. He did state he believes it was on a Saturday in the morning hours.

TAYLOR described the rifle as a Springfield Bolt Action, 30-06 caliber. It contained the marking, "U. S. Rock Island Arsenal, Model 1903," and has Serial Number 66091. TAYLOR said he was of the opinion the rifle had never been fired, as it had a great deal of grease in the barrel. It appeared to him the rifle was a typical surplus rifle that was probably released for sale by the Government during the last five or ten years. TAYLOR said when he purchased it he is sure, in his own mind, the rifle was in exactly the same condition as when it was issued originally by the Government. He said he has seen many similar-type rifles.

TAYLOR advised that, since purchasing this rifle, he has "sporterized" it. He said he removed the top part of the wooden stock, and shortened the forepiece of the bottom of the stock. He said he removed the sling, the front sling holder, the metal bands that held the top part of the wooden stock, and also removed the movable peep sight. In addition, TAYLOR stated he filed down and bent the bolt actuating arm, so it would not interfere with the telescopic sight, which he later had installed. TAYLOR advised he had the gun drilled and tapped (four) for a scope mount at John Furrer's, 1112 Sowers Road, Irving, Texas. TAYLOR further stated that he purchased a Herter's 4X scope direct from the factory at "Waukesha, Wisconsin," which he mounted on the rifle. He said that he, at present, does not have the scope on the rifle and has stored it for safekeeping. TAYLOR said he did not shorten the barrel of this rifle.

TAYLOR advised that on November 23, 1963, he was watching television and, upon viewing LEE HARVEY OSWALD, commented to his wife, "Say, that looks like the guy I bought the 30-06 from." He

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stated, however, he cannot be positively sure the man who sold him the rifle was OSWALD. He stated he feels that it was OSWALD since, upon viewing OSWALD on television, he immediately thought of this rifle and, at that instant, thought OSWALD was the man who sold the weapon to him.

On reflecting back, TAYLOR stated he had never seen either of these two men before. He stated there is a possibility the man he believes to be OSWALD came into the station several weeks to a month later after he had purchased the rifle from him and he was, at that time, a passenger in another automobile, this time driven by a woman. He said he cannot recall what kind of automobile the woman was driving and would hesitate to give a description of it. Further, TAYLOR stated, he is rather doubtful that the individual from whom he purchased the rifle was ever seen by him, either prior or subsequent to the time he purchased the rifle. He said he may have seen him another time, but he is not sure.

Concerning this woman and male passenger whom he thought to be the man from whom he had purchased the rifle, TAYLOR said he is very doubtful that this actually was LEE HARVEY OSWALD because, on reflection, he recalls the person from whom he purchased this rifle had promised to give him two boxes of ammunition for the rifle. He said he is almost sure that, if OSWALD had been this person in the station at that time, he would have remembered him because of the promised ammunition.

TAYLOR related that it is his practice each year to go deer hunting during the deer hunting season. He said the deer hunting season for the State of Texas for the year 1963 ran from November 15, 1963, through December 31, 1963. TAYLOR advised that, during the first week of deer season, he took this rifle with him to the home of his son-in-law and daughter, BENJAMIN and SHIRLEY MOKU, 502 Carroll Drive, Killeen, Texas. He said this address is "just off" Fort Hood, Texas, where his son-in-law, BENJAMIN MOKU, is assigned as an SP5. TAYLOR said that, during the first week of deer season on some day before November 22, 1963, this gun was registered by either himself or BENJAMIN MOKU with

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the Provost Marshal at Fort Hood, Texas, for use in deer hunting on the Fort Hood military reservation. He said this rifle stayed at the residence of BENJAMIN and SHIRLEY MOKU until the last day of deer season, December 31, 1963, when he, TAYLOR, brought it back home with him.

It should be noted that previous investigation has established that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was employed in Dallas, Texas, at Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall, Inc., in March 1963 and until April 6, 1963, and that he left Dallas for New Orleans, Louisiana, in the latter part of April 1963.

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