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March 26, 1964

A. J. "BOOTS" AYO, residence 328 Bayshore Drive, La Porte, Texas, telephone - La Porte number GA-1-0144, upon interview at his place of employment, Jay Marks Chevrolet Company, La Porte, Texas, advised as follows:

He is well acquainted with ROBERT "DICK" MC KEOWN but has not talked to him in the past month or two. MC KEOWN formerly owned the J and M Drive-In located on Red Bluff Road near Clear Creek some two years previous. AYO was formerly employed as a Patrolman by the Harris County Sheriff's Office. AYO recalled on one occasion his office contacted him (AYO) by radio and wanted to know how to contact MC KEOWN. AYO told his office he would personally check and advise. The Harris County Sheriff's Office told AYO by radio at the time that some person from Dallas, Texas, was exceedingly intent on trying to contact MC KEOWN by telephone. AYO was not furnished the name of the individual calling nor the nature of the caller's business. AYO proceeded to the J and M Drive-In, told MC KEOWN about the telephone call, and MC KEOWN furnished AYO the telephone number of the J and M Drive-In, which AYO relayed by radio to the Harris County Sheriff's Office. This incident took place not too long after MC KEOWN had opened the J and M Drive-In because a telephone had not been installed for a very long time.

AYO stated he could recall nothing further about this matter and at the time it impressed him as just a routine matter. He commented he had always found MC KEOWN reliable, although at the present time MC KEOWN may have to watch his drinking, inasmuch as he (MC KEOWN) is now off probation.

On 1/27/64 at La Porte, Texas File # HO 44-939
by SA DANIEL W. PULTS, JR. : mem Date dictated 1/28/64

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JACK L. RUBY
LEE HARVEY OSWALD - VICTIM

The following information concerning Lewis Joseph McWillie was developed by the FBI in connection with another matter.

The January 3, 1961, edition of the "Chicago American," a Chicago daily newspaper, on page 5, column 2, contains an article captioned "Teacher Ducks Talk of PUNCH." The article states that LaVerne Kautt, a teacher at Senn High School, refused to answer questions by reporters after having promised three times to talk to the press. Kautt stated, "My advisers agree this is a private matter. I have nothing to say about it." The article reflects that Kautt was in Havana over the week end with eighty other Chicagoans who were guests of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Lewis McWillie, of Miami, told the "Chicago American" that he was waiting to board a plane for Miami in Cuba when Kautt started talking to Cuban newspapermen. Kautt told the reporters that everything that Castro and the Cuban Government was doing is a good thing, even taking property from the Americans. He said that the United States wasn't anything but an imperialistic government. McWillie stated Kautt also strongly denounced American newspapers quoting him as saying they constantly misinterpret and misrepresent stories that come from Cuba because imperialist advertisers dictate editorial policy to American newspapers. McWillie said he was so annoyed over what Kautt said that when their plane landed at Miami, he asked Kautt to repeat his remarks on American soil. Kautt refused and McWillie said, "He made a move like he was going to hit me so I hit him in the nose."

The January 4, 1961, edition of the "Chicago Tribune," a Chicago daily newspaper, on page 5, contained an article captioned "Teacher to be Questioned on Fidel Fracas." It mentions that Assistant Superintendent Richard C. McVey, who is in charge of school personnel, planned to talk with LaVerne Kautt concerning possible disciplinary action by school officials and the Board of Education in connection with statements made by Kautt in Cuba concerning the American Government. McVey said that if it is found that Kautt is a member of the Communist Party or any organization that advocates overthrow of the Government, he would be discharged.

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for violating a non-Communist oath he signed in 1955. The article further reflects that Kautt, when interviewed by a "Tribune" reporter in Senn High School, denied comments attributed to him and said the situation was "ridiculous." He said, "What I said I would be willing to repeat to the Superintendent of Schools, the President or to anybody." Kautt said he is a registered Republican voter, not a Communist and just a tourist who got involved in a situation. Kautt described himself as an average school teacher, not wealthy, and said he got a circular in the mail about the trip to Cuba for \$200.00. "On a teacher's salary I couldn't afford what it would normally cost. It was a tremendous opportunity to take this trip." Kautt considered the incident in Havana where McWillie took offense at something he was saying a misunderstanding.

The January 6, 1961, edition of the "Chicago Sun Times," a Chicago daily newspaper, on page 7, column 1, contained an article captioned "Teacher Who Got Punched Denies He Praised Castro." The article states that Chicago school teacher LaVerne E. Kautt denied Thursday that he praised Cuba's Fidel Castro or criticized the United States after a trip to the island. "I believe him," said Richard C. McVey, Assistant Superintendent in charge of school personnel. McVey said even if Kautt made the remarks attributed to him, he certainly could not take any action against him. He went to Cuba on a legitimate leave of absence and did not try to pass himself off falsely as a school representative. "It is not my intent to muzzle an individual's prerogative to freedom of speech." McVey said he learned that McWillie, the former manager of the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, had just had most of his assets confiscated by the Castro regime. "Under those circumstances, it is not too hard to understand why he might swing at anyone who said anything that might possibly be construed as favorable to Cuba."

LEWIS McWILLIE, 3651 Southwest 18th Terrace, Miami, Florida, advised that he is the former manager of the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba. He stated that when returning to the United States from Cuba and waiting at the Havana International Airport for his flight to Miami, he overheard an American talking to a group of men who apparently were Cuban newspaper correspondents. He stated that the American spoke in English and was denouncing "President EISENHOWER and American imperialism." He told the Cubans that all Americans thought about was the dollar and that in his opinion, the government of FIDEL CASTRO was the right kind of government. McWILLIE advised that this American was wearing the Fair Play for Cuba Committee badge and another badge indicating he was a guest of the Cuban Government which he took off before arriving in the United States. McWILLIE advised that he and this American both traveled to the United States aboard the same airplane and that when they arrived at Miami, McWILLIE went up to this man and said, "Why don't you make remarks you made in Havana?" McWILLIE stated the man then made a sudden movement and McWILLIE hit him. McWILLIE further stated that police officers at the airport asked this American whether he wanted to prefer charges against McWILLIE and he refused. McWILLIE stated that he did not know the name of this man, LA VERNE KAUTT, until he saw it in the newspapers.

On 3/22/61 at Miami, Florida File # 100-14601

by SA JOHN E. MOONE:ush Date dictated 3/23/61

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