

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

57

TO : FILE (89-69)

DATE: 9/30/75

FROM : SAC J. T. SYLVESTER, JR.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63,
DALLAS, TEXAS

At 2:40 p.m., PHIL JOHNSON, Channel 4 TV, New Orleans, telephonically contacted this office regarding the following wire story from Washington, D. C.:

"MARK LANE long time critic of the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy said today the FBI warned its southern offices five days before Kennedy was shot that attempt would be made to kill him in Dallas on November 22, 1963. FBI spokesman refused to comment on Lane's allegation. Kennedy was shot and killed on November 22, 1963 while riding in motorcade in Dallas. Lane's comment came one day after Dallas County Prosecutor Henry Wade said "somebody encouraged Lee Harvey Oswald to shoot President Kennedy. Re-opening investigation would be a waste of time and money."

"Lane, Director of Citizens Commission of Inquiry, said William Walter, a security clerk in the New Orleans Office of the FBI has said he saw message from FBI Headquarters in Washington warning of possible assassination attempt. Lane said Walter said message was received on November 17, 1963.

"Citizens Commission has asked Congress to reopen."

I advised Mr. JOHNSON that I was assigned here at the time of the assassination as Assistant Special Agent in Charge, that there was no message on 11/17/63 to effect that offices should be alerted that President Kennedy might be assassinated in Dallas on 11/22/63, and if there was any such message I would know it.

I also received inquiry re above wire story from ED GLANCY, WGSO Radio, New Orleans, telephone 522-5030 or 581-1280, and I advised him as set out above.

2 - New Orleans
JTS:jam
(2)

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Out
Out

OCT 1 1975



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

NO 89-69

ADDENDUM: SAC SYLVESTER, 10/1/75

Instant release given to the following individuals on
10/1/75:

WALTER PHILBIN - Times-Picayune
DOUG MURPHY - States-Item
BOB KREGER - WVUE-TV, Channel 8

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (89-69)

DATE: 9/30/75

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

The following press release was given by SAC JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. on this date to the listed newspapers and radio and tv stations:

"I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 17, 1963 AND FROM THAT TIME THROUGH THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION.

"FROM MY KNOWLEDGE AND HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE, THERE IS NO TRUTH TO THE STATEMENT THAT THERE WAS A COMMUNICATION FORWARDED TO THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE WARNING OF POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, IN DALLAS, TEXAS. IN ADDITION TO MY OWN KNOWLEDGE, I HAVE CAUSED A COMPLETE SEARCH TO BE MADE OF EVERY POSSIBLE AVENUE INCLUDING THE FILES AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION, ALL PERSONNEL WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION DURING PERTINENT PERIOD AND FORMER AGENT AND CLERICAL PERSONNEL, WHO HAVE CONTACTED THIS OFFICE IN VIEW OF PRESS INQUIRIES MADE TO THEM, ADVISED THEY HAD NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION.

"IN 1968, WILLIAM WALTER, FORMER CLERK OF THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE, STATED THAT THE INFORMATION ATTRIBUTED TO HIM ON A NATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAM WAS TOTALLY FALSE AND THAT HE DID NOT MAKE THESE STATEMENTS TO MARK LANE OR ANYONE ELSE. THIS WAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND LOOKED INTO IN 1968 AND WAS DISPROVED AT THAT TIME."

Furnished to:

DOUG MURPHY - States Item
PHIL JOHNSON - WWL-TV
ED CLANCY - WGSO Radio
Mr. HERNON - Associated Press

2 New Orleans
JTS:jam
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NO 89-69

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WALTER PHILBIN - Times-Picayune
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NO (89-69)

DATE: 10/1/75

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FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

Attached hereto is transcription of the interview had with WILLIAM S. WALTER, former clerk, with ED CLANCY, Disc Jockey for WGSO Radio, New Orleans, on 10/1/75.

The original tape is being placed in the 1-A section of this file.

1 New Orleans
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J. [Signature]
A. SAC
[Signature]



TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF
WILLIAM S. WALTER, MORNING OF
OCTOBER 1, 1975 BY WGSO RADIO,
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Interviewer:

Mr. Walter, of course your name has popped up on terms of the, concerning the investigation of the Kennedy assassination and indications that the FBI might have known before hand that there might have been an assassination attempt and it all centers around a teletype statement or a memo of some sort. Can you tell us what this is all about, sir, and what you got when you worked for the FBI?

WALTER:

Well, what was received by the New Orleans FBI Office on the 17th of November of 1963 was a normal movement teletype that the FBI offices throughout the country would receive if a dignitary or the President would come into your area and they were primarily concerned with developing information as to if there were any demonstrations planned or any embarrassing situations that the President or dignitary may be placed in and this particular teletype was sent from Washington to all the SACs in the offices and I happened to be working the night from 12 midnight to 8 in the morning the night that it came in, indicating that they, the FBI, had received information that a possible attempt would be made on President Kennedy's life in Dallas on the Dallas trip.

Interviewer:

Well, the FBI here is is denying any sort of knowledge of that memo or any kind of teletype message whatsoever. Are they just mistaken, or lying or covering up, or what?

WALTER:

Well, that, you know that's, well, I guess that's for the public to decide. I'm willing to go to a Grand Jury or a Senate investigative hearing and give and give the evidence that I have and also name names and I think possibly the Bureau has always taken the position, and I don't have anything against the Bureau. I worked there for five and a half years. Er, the Bureau's always taken the position of don't embarrass the Bureau and they felt at this time that this information couldn't couldn't have been handled in a more professional manner and wouldn't have had any effect at all on who would assassinate Kennedy or of the outcome of the assassination.

Interviewer:

What kind of pressure were you under concerning this memo or teletype that you got?

WALTER:

I, I wasn't in under any pressure at all. In 1968 Mark Lane was in New Orleans and he he evidently had a source of information that told him that there was such a message. He accidentally stumbled on me at a Tulane University round table discussion. Found out that I was with the Bureau and requested me to talk with him which I refused to. It was immediately after that that he gave a signed affidavit, not signed by me but signed by him, gave Jim Garrison a signed affidavit saying that Mark Lane had talked to me and that the information I had given him was that a teletype had been received and I had knowledge of it. Garrison never checked with me and I've never talked with Mr. Garrison but Garrison went on the Johnny Carson show in 1968 and read that affidavit. From that point the FBI questioned me and I might add that I voluntarily went to the FBI Office in Jacksonville, Florida where I was staying at the time I saw the Johnny Carson show and told them, er, of what happened and they were only interested in whether or not I had actually cooperated with Mark Lane and intended to cooperate with Garrison. They never asked me did I receive a teletype or did I have knowledge of the teletype. When I got back to New Orleans about three weeks after that incident in Jacksonville I voluntarily went to the FBI Office in New Orleans and went over the same thing over again and also presented the FBI Office in New Orleans with a note that Mark Lane had put under my door at my apartment saying that he was going to tell Jim Garrison what I told him and that Garrison was going to make it nationally known. It was at one point that I was ever pressured by the FBI and ever asked about the teletype and that was in Nashville, Tennessee when I was interviewed by the Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office. This again was in 1968 and the man, Mr. Jensen, was the Special Agent in Charge and Mr. Molken (phonetic) were there. It was late at night and Mr. Jensen stood up across the desk from me and told me that Mr. Hoover had sent him to Nashville to set me straight and shut me up and they asked me to sign a group of papers which I refused to do and left and right after that I was called by the United States Attorney, Mr. Lacour.

WALTER:
(continued)

in New Orleans and I flew from Nashville, where I was living, to New Orleans and spent the entire day with Mr. Lacour and my attorney and, er, gave them the entire story and the statements and what had happened up to that point and, of course, the FBI didn't choose to do anything in 68 and, er, now, as I understand it, er, I'm free to talk about it and CBS news contacted me independently, I didn't contact them, and they're doing a documentary in November and that's where the information got out.

Interviewer:

Did you pass any of this along to J. Edgar Hoover?

WALTER:

I was never asked by Mr. Hoover and the employees of the offices were not, er, were not in a position, you didn't contact Mr. Hoover, except through the Special Agent in Charge of your offices.

Interviewer:

Er, would you, would you tell us again what that memo or teletype did say?

WALTER:

Well, the memo, it wasn't a memo, it was a teletype sent from the Washington headquarters to all SACs, that's all Special Agents in Charge, saying that the Bureau, the FBI, somewhere had received information that an attempt would be made on President Kennedy's life in Dallas, and they asked us in the New Orleans Office to check with our informants to determine whether or not we had any information that would support that. Er, I might add that this ties in with a note that was received in the Dallas Office about that same time. Mr. Kelley who is the Director of the FBI now admitted about three or four weeks ago admitted on national news that a note had been given to the FBI Office in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald saying that he was gonna take some action against the federal government. This note was alleged to have taken place and the FBI conducted a two month investigation and determined that the note was received in Dallas and it was destroyed and the information had never been relayed on to the Warren Commission. So, that seems to tie in with the, with the teletype. If that note like they say and they have signed sworn statements and Mr. Kelley admitted it, it would have been normal for the FBI to then send teletypes to their field offices asking their field offices was there any information that they had to support any large activities of any kind.

Interviewer:

Now as I understand it, er, there was another message that said for agents who had conducted interviews regarding the assassination to make sure their reports didn't have any conflicts in them. Er.

WALTER:

That was another, that was another story there. Because of the massiveness and investigations and the number of offices that were involved in the investigation, this is after the assassination, there were changes made to coordinate reports so that the leads wouldn't continue on endlessly. I think everybody agreed that Oswald was the lone assassin and, er, an investigation had to be conducted to see whether or not there was any conspiracy and it was conducted and I think it was very, very accurate and very thorough and, er, I'm convinced that Oswald was the lone assassin and I'm also convinced that I believe the Warren Report. I, the Bureau, the FBI, didn't do anything on this particular teletype and other messages and other reports that they haven't always done, as, as the time I was with the Bureau and that is don't put the Bureau in a position in sensitive matters that they can be embarrassed.

Interviewer:

What are you gonna do now, sir?

WALTER:

What's gonna do now?

Interviewer:

What are you gonna do now about this, er, is there anything more you can do or plan to do in terms..

WALTER:

There is nothing more that I can do, I',. I'm sure I'm gonna get a lot of flack from the FBI. They're gonna deny it. Of course we knew when I first started talking, er, to the Dallas newspaper that contacted me two months ago that they were gonna deny it but I might add this, is that if we ever get before a Senate Committee, er, there's evidence, we have evidence that we have confirmations from people that I don't know, er, that have knowledge of this communication, so, er, if, er, the Bureau wants to stand on the position that it didn't happen I think we can prove that it did happen and I, I, can't understand why the FBI wouldn't just come right out and say okay we admitted it like they admitted the note two months ago that went to the Dallas Office.

ALTER:
(continued)

and Mr. Sylvester, I know Mr. Sylvester, Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office very well, and for him to categorically, er, deny this teletype and also for him to make statements on television that I saw last night that they emphatically deny that it ever existed and I think the quote they used is that it's not in the FBI files, well, there's a system that was established to, to deal with matters that they didn't want to ever to admit that were in the files and I think this came out last Friday in the, er, Church Senate Committee hearings that the FBI had a procedure that they would set up that, that they could honestly under oath say that the FBI files did not have any record. So for him to sit there and say that after they've already admitted to the Church Committee that that procedure was established, is, er, I just, I just, I just can't imagine why they'd do it.

Interviewer:

Did you put that, that teletype in the file when you received it?

ALTER:

No, my, my procedure was to call the Special Agent in Charge, then call the Agents, er, that would deal with those kind of cases and then mark that notation on the file and put it on the Special Agent in Charge's desk. See, this was, this came in at 1:47 a.m. Central Standard Time, em, on the 17th of November, 1963.

Interviewer:

And it apparently disappeared from that point on?

ALTER:

Well that was in the file at one stage and then of course after the assassination if, er, a group of, er, employees at the office, we were concerned primarily over whether or not, er, anybody in the New Orleans Office would, would be criticized for handling of that teletype or whether or not that teletype had produced any, er, positive information as to anything that was gonna happen in Dallas and so a couple of us, who had talked about it, were concerned about who was gonna get in trouble and if anybody was gonna get in trouble and we went back to locate the teletype and we were able to locate it about three days after the assassination but after that we didn't see it any more. And we looked.

Interviewer:

Mr. Walter, thank you, sir, er, we appreciate your taking the time to talk with us and I know this must be be very difficult for you and you will be under a lot of pressure, er, er, well you have courage if nothing else. I'll say that for you.

WALTER:

Well I appreciate that.

Interviewer;

We thank you again for chatting with us.

WALTER:

Thank you.

Interviewer:

Have a good day, sir. Bye, bye.

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (89-69)

10/2/75

CC [REDACTED]

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ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS
11/22/63

On 10/2/75, ROY E. SIMON, former Security Patrol Clerk, New Orleans Office, telephonically advised that he recently received a call from a reporter for the Dallas Times Herald newspaper. The reporter inquired about a teletype which was supposedly sent to the field offices relative to the assassination of President KENNEDY. The reporter told SIMON that the following Agents names appeared on this teletype:

KAACK
KWICK
QUIGLEY
DeBRUEYS
MAYNOR

The reporter also advised SIMON that BILL WALTER stated that approximately three days after the teletype was received, that he (WALTER), TOM McCURLEY and ROY SIMON went back to the files and they found this teletype. SIMON stated that he had never seen or found any such teletype, and told the reporter "If you intend to produce a program based on what BILLY WALTER says, you have got to be crazy".

After watching the news at 10:00 p.m. on 10/1/75 in which CHARLES ZEWE gave the information put out by WALTER relative to this teletype, SIMON stated he called the news room and advised the individual in the newsroom that "you are showing only one side of the story", to which the individual said "I know". The individual then said words to the effect "We feel that BILL WALTER and MARK LANE are conspiring to receive publicity for a future book they may publish".

SIMON can be reached at his home, phone 362-4585 or office, phone 522-1595.

LWH:sam
(2)

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Oct 2 1975
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