

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

*Top Secret
From [unclear]
[unclear]*

JPI-29

(KENNEDY)

CHICAGO--IT WAS PRUSIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S CONCERN FOR THE NEGRO AND HUMAN DIGNITY THAT TOOK HIM TO TEXAS THE WEEKEND HE WAS KILLED, CARL T. ROWAN FORMER AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND, SAID IN AN ARTICLE RELEASED YESTERDAY.

ROWAN, WRITING IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF EBONY MAGAZINE, SAID THE "PETTY" POLITICAL FEUD BETWEEN THEN VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND TEXAS CONSERVATIVES WAS ONLY A SECONDARY CAUSE OF THE TRIP.

AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER WROTE IN "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR KENNEDY'S TRIP WAS TO PATCH UP THE SPLIT IN THE TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ROWAN, A FORMER REPORTER FOR THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE, SAID IN THE ARTICLE, "THE LAST TIME I SAW JOHN F. KENNEDY HE WAS THE TARGET OF VIOLENT SUSPICIONS AND RAW HOSTILITY ON THE PART OF MILLIONS OF WHITE AMERICANS WHO ARGUED THAT HE HAD GONE TOO FAR IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGRO." ROWAN ADDED THAT "PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD" HAD BEGUN TO COMPARE KENNEDY WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"HATRED IS SPREADING ACROSS THIS COUNTRY LIKE A PLAGUE," ROWAN QUOTED KENNEDY AS SAYING THE DAY BEFORE HE LEFT FOR TEXAS. "THE BIGOTS, THE BIRCHITES, ARE LIKE A PLAGUE. THIS TREND IS DANGEROUS FOR THIS COUNTRY. IT ENDANGERS YOU, ME AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALL THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION STANDS FOR."

"I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND THAT A PRESIDENT IS OBLIGATED TO USE THE PRESTIGE OF HIS OFFICE TO TRY TO HALT THIS DAMNED MADNESS. I'M GOING TO TEXAS TOMORROW BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS SOMETHING I AM OBLIGATED TO DO."

ROWAN SAID HE MET WITH KENNEDY ON NOV. 20, 1963, THE DAY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT LEFT ON HIS FATAL JOURNEY. IT WAS AT THIS TIME KENNEDY EXPRESSED HIS PURPOSE IN GOING TO TEXAS, ROWAN SAID.

"WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME WAS THAT KENNEDY HAD PLEDGED TO THROW THE POWER AND PRESTIGE OF THE PRESIDENCY BEHIND EFFORTS TO MAKE AMERICA'S NEGROES FIRST-CLASS CITIZENS," ROWAN SAID.

3/25--TD958AES

62-1040-107-107
NOT RECORDED
199 APR 2 1967

61 APR 7 1967

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE