



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

341 Federal Office Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
February 27, 1964

Information Concerning J. P. Davidson.

On February 25, 1964, an individual who requested his identity not be disclosed, contacted the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and furnished the following information.

Source stated he has had a number of contacts with Mr. J. P. Davidson, who operates an Army Surplus Store on South Main Street just below the Chisca Hotel in Memphis. He lives in DeSoto County, Mississippi, on Goodwyn Road, and is reportedly a friend and adviser of former Governor Ross E. Barnett and present Governor Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi. This source said that during the latter part of September or early October, 1963, he was in the office of Mr. Davidson on South Main Street in Memphis, and he heard Mr. Davidson remark that when President Kennedy went to Texas "they are going to shoot him" and "those people (Texans) are riled up about the Mississippi situation and the people in Texas are not going to take it in Texas."

Source said Mr. Davidson continued in effect to say, "Those fellows in Texas are deer hunters," meaning they are expert shots with rifles, and they would "get the whole Kennedy group." Source then heard Mr. Davidson say in effect that a wealthy Texan, name not mentioned, had ordered a "fancy" casket and if anything happened, they would "send him (presumably President Kennedy) home in the finest box in Texas."

According to source, Davidson did not give any indication as to where he received this information. He did infer he had been talking to someone but did not say to whom.

The source said Mr. Davidson's wife may have been in the room during the time of this conversation. The source has heard Mr. Davidson make similar statements to a number of other people.

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Source continued he had seen Mr. Davidson seven or eight times since the assassination of President Kennedy. On about January 15, 1964, he overheard Mr. Davidson mentioned the Kennedy assassination and comment the only thing wrong with it was "they didn't get Dobby." Source further recalled about December 1, he saw Mr. Davidson in his office and heard him state something to the effect there was much happiness in Mississippi "over the Texas incident," obviously referring to the assassination of the late President Kennedy. He further heard Mr. Davidson mention something to the effect that Mississippians were sorry "they didn't get Dobby."

The source described Mr. J. T. Davidson as a white male, about 55 years of age, 5'10" to 6' tall, 130 pounds, "flabby" build, hair sandy-gray and balding, married, no children, peculiarities, was crippled during armed forces service, suffering back injury, walks stooped over due to gall bladder operation.

Source stated he had no further information.