

DIRECTOR, FBI

5/15/64

SAC, WFO (62-) (RUC)

PRESLEY J. WALTON
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(OO:MM)

*Assassination of
President John F.
Kennedy*

On 5/14/64, Mr. EDWARD SCHADE, Deputy Clerk, U.S. Supreme Court, furnished the following to SA O. MICHAEL SMASAL:

1. Handwritten letter from captioned individual, date stamped 3/5/64 by the Office of the Clerk, U.S. Supreme Court.
2. Silvertone magnetic recording tape, which was enclosed with the above letter.
3. Letter dated 5/9/64 from captioned individual addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
4. Silvertone magnetic recording tape, which was enclosed with the above letter.

Mr. SCHADE requested that after the FBI reviewed this material that it be returned to him. He furnished it to the FBI since the Supreme Court has no means of playing back the tapes and the letter which enclosed the second tape mentions the FBI. He does not desire a transcript of the tapes but wanted the FBI to be aware of what was in them.

The first letter reads as follows:

"1. Start with tape first.

"I don't know what Mrs. LERNER's reason was for ordering Mr. K and his wife to be move out the cottage before she and Mr. LERNER returned that evening.

"Mr. K was next to lady and BILL CRACROFT (?) or some such name was third man and I fourth.

"As I understood Mrs. LERNER that evening she was speaking over (?) her husband head with him President. (?)

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - Miami (MM)
- 1 - WFO

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162-109060 - 3172
NOT RECORDED
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ORIGINAL FILED IN

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"She gave order for all employees except my self to clear out by morning.

"We were all present standing in the back drive. She had very little to say to any one but me.

"2. I assumed that she had just made he speech to the other men when I came in from walk (?). The men were all standing there seamly waiting for me.

"Mrs. LERNER spoke right out saying Mr. WALTON I am glad that you are here.

"We are closing house for a while I want you to take up the call (illegible) close the doors take no calls this evening.

"(BEN) mentioning Mr. LERNER and I are going to a meeting I want Mr. K out by the time we get back. We will place an ad for more (?) help tomorrow, (?) come to the front office in the morning.

"3. BEN and I will talk to you there we must go now.

"Now due to time I must cut short the story of how Mrs. LERNER died before morning. I told BOBY KENEDY this story once and the F.B.I. more than once.

"After the funeral I went home to Louisville, Ky., and set out to inform (?) the world of what was taking place down here in South Florida.

"Doctor FERRY (?) was ready to back me up and I was on my way to a meeting with him when he was gunned down.

"I can not prove that people from Miami were behind Doctor FERRY'S death, but I say this that DICK GERSTEIN has been playing around with some of the people who I suspect in the death of the

"4. of Mrs. LERNER and the Judge and his wife.

"he is a good look alike for HENRY ANHERSON (?).

"And I recall that the killer first left the gun, and later starting lions (?) (illegible) seen turned.

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"around and left his hat. later in flight dropped a jacket. I just wonder how they would look on DICK GERSTEIN.

" I still be that ANNERSON (?) was framed (?) and that the same patter fit the J. F. K. slaying.

"I know that the president was pushing Miami officials around a little to much to suit them. I believe we were (?) got close to something. I had been pushing (?) the president and his brother BOBY pretty hard and have good reason to believe that they were carrying through on some of the tips I gave them and that might account for DICK presence with some of the people I suspect. Mr. KENNEDY may have put him on to them.

"never the less I don't intent to take any chances on DICK or TOM KELLEY.

Prestley : *of*
TS/

"PRESTLEY J. WALTON
3207 S.W. 15 Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida"

A summary of the tape enclosed with this letter is as follows:

The tape begins by WALTON giving his name as PRESTLEY J. WALTON, 3207 S.W. 15 Avenue; Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the date as 2/29/64, and is addressed to President JOHNSON. In the tape, WALTON says:

Regarding the threats to the life of the President on his visit to Miami, Florida, on 2/28/64, he does not want to shake him or be abusive, but has to make the points for his protection as he would like to have been able to do for the late President KENNEDY. He wants to give some cold facts on this matter leading to the assassination of President KENNEDY. The people who were responsible for this are friends of President JOHNSON, as well as his. "On the surface," he, WALTON, is a "crank and a crackpot," running around living in every neighborhood and environment that would not be considered a decent place for a reputable citizen to live. He lives in poverty and does not make enough to pay income taxes, but can turn up three million very quickly, probably quicker than the President can, and the money will be three million honest dollars.

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He goes back to 1956, right after former President EISENHOWER won the election, as the starting point and wants to tell about some people who he (presumably the President) will scream about and defend, but they are the people who are making threats against him. (The "him" referred to is not definitely clear). This can be checked with Senator JOHN COOPER and began with the murder of Judge CHANNELSWORTH (phonetic) and his wife. WALTON claims to have been an eye witness to the death of a Mrs. BEN LENEER (phonetic) and knows why she died. WALTON was in the employment of the Fairchild Funeral Home and took Mr. LENEER's place when he left to go into business for himself. He accuses the people who work with President JOHNSON as being murderers, but admits he cannot prove it, and he is sure that they were the same people who killed President KENNEDY. WALTON says they will kill him because "he has seen them kill." He names BEN TAYLOR, the City Auditor in Miami, and a man by the name of BILL CRAIGCRAFT, or HUTCHCRAFT, a State Auditor, and indicates that the latter probably works for President JOHNSON.

WALTON then goes back to relate items concerning BEN TAYLOR on the missing persons list and states that while the police were looking for him, TAYLOR was at BEN LENEER's funeral home. WALTON continues with disjointed items concerning a tape recorder and other equipment slipped into the funeral home and the fact that his wife was a fingerprint expert and photographer for Cuba.

He then goes back to mention the CHANNELSWORTH case and states the reason for their deaths was the checking of the books by BEN TAYLOR and a Federal or State Auditor.

He mentions a suspicious white Cadillac which he was told was to be given to President EISENHOWER when he came to Miami. Since President EISENHOWER refused to use the car, Mr. LENEER took over the car.

WALTON then relates a disjointed series of items concerning someone coming into the dormitory where he slept at the funeral home, whom he subsequently identified as BEN TAYLOR. He accused TAYLOR of sleeping in a casket in the display room. He then gives a disjointed account of how former President JOHN F. KENNEDY comes into the case as a result of Mr. and Mrs. LENEER's going to a mass meeting, not

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further identified. He said he told this story to "BOBBY KENNEDY" and told him the man to look out for in Miami was a State Attorney, RICHARD GERSTEIN, and WALTON is going to link him to the assassination of a Dr. TERRY in Louisville, Kentucky, and knows he is linked with the CHANNELSWORTH case, the TAYLOR case, the death of former President KENNEDY and threats against President JOHNSON.

He then goes on to describe the mass meeting attended by Mr. and Mrs. LENKER as being some kind of kangaroo court which placed the death sentence on her. He will not go into this matter, but Mr. COOPER or "BOBBY KENNEDY" can tell the President how she died.

The second letter reads as follows:

"Mr. PRESTLEY J. WALTON
3207 S.W. 15 Ave, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

"May 9, 1964

"The Honorable Chief Justice Of
The United States Supreme Court
EARL WARREN

"Mr. Chief Justice:

"Two local F.B.I. Men were out to talk to me concerning some printing that I am haveing done at a printing shop down town fort lauderdale.

"They were concerned mostly about me useing Mr. HOOVERS and BOBY KENNEDY's Names.

"I assured them that I am not Just sounding off And I had informed you about a year ago that I had some case for you.

"To Put Senator MARGARET CHASE SMITH in the clear of any thing I do or say in this election year, I want it understood That I am backing her but she is in no way responsible, for any thing I do or say.

"I keep Her informed on where I stand on political issues in about The same manner that I keep in touch with You and the news editors.

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"I dont contend that every thing said in this tape recording is correct but it is close enough to tell the necessary story.

"Sincerely Yours, PRESTLEY J. WALTON"

In the tape enclosed with the above letter, WALTON gives the same address and begins with no introductory remarks, but it appears the tape is directed to an unknown Senator. WALTON states:

He was visited this week by two FBI agents with regard to a petition for Mr. HOOVER's resignation and in that connection, he desired to discuss the Wilmore, Kentucky, bank robbery, which happened about five years ago. This is not the first case he had reason to investigate J. EDGAR HOOVER about. The investigation of the FBI began immediately after "Mr. LONG" was kidnapped and run into Texas to be held in a mental institution without legal recourse. Checks and balances are needed between the CIA and the FBI. There are lots of good criminology students available and they have to remove Mr. HOOVER to modify the system. Mr. HOOVER did not use road blocks in the Wilmore bank robbery and they should have been used. The State airplane was not used and he, WALTON, was not notified that a bank robbery occurred. The robbers were finally caught by two Quaker preachers and because Mr. HOOVER did not charge the robbers with the bank robbery offense, he, WALTON, is ashamed of his home town.

He gives disjointed accounts about his displeasure about the issuance of license plates in Tallahassee, Florida, and ties this in with the fact that there is no office of narcotics agents in Louisville, Kentucky, which is the direct fault of Mr. HOOVER. He then mentions a court case being prepared to get Mr. HOOVER's resignation, which will be handled by men trained in criminology and law. This is also mentioned along with the fact that there is a good jail in Fayette County, but they do not want to pay for federal prisoners to be kept there. "They" are not further identified.

WALTON then maligns Attorney General KENNEDY for having spent four years trying to get JIMMY HOFFA and finally winning a jury tampering case and not realizing he won it. He says he would have liked to have seen KENNEDY make the grade as an attorney, since he likes the KENNEDY boys, and had promised the late JOHN F. KENNEDY that he would make an attorney out of BOBBY KENNEDY, but he can see no hope for him now.

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WALTON said that if there is to be any progress in law enforcement, we will have to remove Mr. HOOVER from office. "We have people trained to fill each man's position in the FBI, including Mr. HOOVER's." More action is needed in the FBI and the organization has to be "remodified."

WALTON states that President JOHNSON has some religious conflicts and he has mentioned this to JOHNSON. He then says if "we are elected, I won't be President, but I'll be in the Attorney General's office next year and you might just as well face the fact."

He closes by asking the Senator to whom he addressed the tape to take it to Mr. JOHNSON and then to Chief Justice WARREN with a request to "let's get this resignation for HOOVER started."

From the contents of the letters and the tapes submitted by WALTON, it appears obvious that he is suffering a definite mental problem. WFO's indices contain no info concerning WALTON; therefore, no recommendations concerning action against him can be made.

After reviewing this information, MM should make suitable recommendations concerning WALTON.