



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
May 26, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

On May 21, 1964, Mr. Blue Beathard, Managing Editor, "Henderson Daily News," Henderson, Texas, made available a copy of a story written by him, which is located on page 6 of the "Henderson Daily News" dated Tuesday, May 19, 1964, which reads as follows:

"MAN SAYS VISION WARNED HIM OF KENNEDY DEATH IN ADVANCE

"B. A. Birdwell, a Mt. Enterprise farmer, said Tuesday that he had a vision concerning President Kennedy's assassination two weeks before it happened and tried to warn Dallas authorities of the danger.

"Nobody would take his warning seriously, according to Birdwell, who is a parttime preacher.

"Birdwell said he received his first 'vision from God' about two weeks before the assassination. The vision showed that Kennedy would be shot in the back of the head, he said. Birdwell claims he told County Attorney Bill Ferguson and Assistant County Attorney Robert Allen about the vision before Kennedy's death. Ferguson says he does not remember any such discussion.

"On the day Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Birdwell says he had a second vision about an hour before the actual shooting. It gave more details of the tragedy, he says. Birdwell said he could see the brick building at the corner of Commerce and Elm in Dallas and also saw the assassin in his vision.

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Birdwell then contacted Tommy Haskins, Jr., who also told Birdwell he had not been present during the alleged conversation, and would not consent to be photographed with Birdwell.

Mr. Ferguson continued that Birdwell said he was going to pray that Ferguson, Allen, and Haskins would remember the conversation. Birdwell stayed around the court house most of that day, and later in the day, Birdwell asked him again if he remembered this conversation and Ferguson again said he did not. Birdwell then said the devil was in Ferguson and it was for this reason that Ferguson could not remember the conversation.

On the evening of May 19, 1964, the "Henderson Daily News" carried a story concerning the alleged vision by Birdwell, and Birdwell's alleged conversation with Ferguson and Allen prior to the assassination of President Kennedy.

On May 21, 1964, Mr. Tommy Haskins, Jr., Rosk County Tax Assessor and Collector, Henderson, Texas, furnished the following information:

He has been acquainted with Ben A. Birdwell of Mount Enterprise, Texas, for many years and has conversed with him on many occasions. In his opinion, Birdwell is a religious fanatic, who is also mentally unbalanced.

On approximately May 15, 1964, he was in the office of County Attorney William Ferguson and Assistant County Attorney Robert Allen was also present. At that time, Birdwell said something about having had a "vision from the Lord" that some seaman or seamen were going to kill President Lyndon B. Johnson. Birdwell also said something about having been in Ferguson's office about two or three weeks prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, and of having told Ferguson and Allen of a vision that President Kennedy was to be assassinated. Both Ferguson and Allen denied that any such conversation had taken place.



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was to be assassinated but Brinkley refused. Birdwell then printed a letter to President Kennedy, warning him, and mailed it at the Post Office. He never received a reply to this letter.

He believes it was about the same day he went to Henderson, Texas, and told William Ferguson, the County Attorney, and Robert Allen, Assistant County Attorney, in the presence of Tommy Haskins, Jr., the Tax Assessor, of the impending assassination of President Kennedy. He told Ferguson to call President Kennedy for him but Ferguson refused. Now Ferguson, Allen, and Haskins all deny he told them of the impending assassination.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., November 22, 1963, he was praying at home, and had another "vision from the Lord" showing him the location of the building in Dallas and the window from which the fatal bullets would be fired at President Kennedy that afternoon. He tried to use his own telephone, but "the devil was in his phone," as it would not work. He then drove into Mount Enterprise and used the pay telephone at the bus station, having the operator charge it to his home number, 3536, Mount Enterprise. He called the Dallas Sheriff's Office and talked to some man, and told him of his vision and that President Kennedy would be assassinated that afternoon. This man thanked him but said he did not think the Lord would put out any such visions.

He continued that he wrote to Mrs. John F. Kennedy, and, in this letter of consolation, he enclosed a newspaper clipping which told of his son being shot in the head by his uncle in Mount Enterprise about two days after the assassination of President Kennedy. Also in this article was mention of donations being sent to Birdwell although he did not ask Mrs. Kennedy for a donation. He received a letter from Mrs. Kennedy's secretary, which he displayed, which thanked him for his letter of consolation, and it also said Mrs. Kennedy would be unable to help him as she was utilizing all her resources to build the Kennedy Memorial Library.

Approximately a week ago he had a "vision from the Lord" telling him that "three old seamen" would kill President Johnson if they ever got a chance. There was nothing more to this vision and the seamen were not identified.

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On May 19, 1964, he went to Henderson, Texas, and told the newspaper about his visions in November, 1963. He wanted to get photographs of himself, Ferguson, Allen, and Haskins to send to Mrs. John F. Kennedy so she could put them in her book, but the others would not agree to have their photographs taken.

On May 21, 1964, he mailed copies of the May 19, 1964, issue of the "Henderson Daily News," which carried a story about his visions, to the "Washington Star," Washington, D. C., and also to the "Shreveport Times," Shreveport, Louisiana.

On May 21, 1964, records of the Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated, 1125 Highland Drive, Henderson, Texas, contained the following information:

Mount Enterprise, Texas, telephone No. 3536 is listed to B. A. Birdwell and this was an operating number on November 22, 1963. It has been discontinued now as of May 1, 1964.

Microfilm records and ledger card records reflect there was only one toll call charged to Mount Enterprise number 3536 during the month of November, 1963. This call was made from Mount Enterprise, Texas, on November 6, 1963, and the call was to Henderson, Texas.

On May 21, 1964, Mr. Moye Lee McCrary, employee, United States Post Office, Mount Enterprise, Texas, furnished the following information:

Mr. Brinkley, the Postmaster, is on annual leave and not available for interview.

He is certain, however, that B. A. Birdwell did not tell Mr. Brinkley of the impending assassination of President John F. Kennedy prior to the time it happened as Mr. Brinkley certainly would have mentioned it to Mr. McCrary after the assassination occurred.







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