



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Seattle, Washington
June 3, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

*Bad speaking
no prediction*

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

no date

Investigation has been conducted by the Seattle Office, dated January 6, 1949, reflecting an interview of [redacted], Accountant, Atkinson and Jones Company, North Richland, Washington, who advised that he operates the Tri-City Service Bureau, a small bookkeeping and accounting service. He stated that one of his accounts is the Anchor Inn. [redacted] advised that [redacted], who works for him at Atkinson and Jones Company, told him that the owner of the Anchor Inn, ARTHUR DE WITT, approached her when she was unemployed and offered her employment as a waitress, but intimated that she would have to [redacted] with customers. [redacted] stated that DE WITT is married to a Chinese woman whose first name is MARY and who operates the Bamboo Inn, a cafe in Kennewick.

no date

Investigation also was conducted on May 31, 1952, which reflected that Mary's Dog House, C and Washington Streets, Kennewick, which is owned by ARTHUR DE WITT, is a small hamburger stand catering to juveniles and the hotrod set. Chief of Police DUTCH LINCOLN, Kennewick Police Department, advised that there were rumors that DE WITT [redacted] at this establishment, but LINCOLN had not been able to develop specific evidence.

no date

In July of 1953, as a result of information received by the Richland Police Department, MIKE WEST, Juvenile Probation Officer at Pasco, Washington, advised that he had complaints from one or more dependable juveniles who indicated to him that [redacted] by ARTHUR DE WITT through the Jesse James Club, Hermiston, Oregon, and/or through Mary's Dog House, at Kennewick, Washington.

On August 29, 1958, information was obtained reflecting that ARTHUR CHESTER DE WITT, FBI Number [redacted] was a candidate for Sheriff of Walla Walla County. DE WITT reportedly had the backing of numerous "extremists," one of whom is WILLIAM H. HAROLD, who edits the "Walla Walla Statesman," which is privately printed, and which is anti-Communist, anti-Semitic, and pro-constitutional party. DE WITT had distributed a pamphlet indicating that he is a candidate for sheriff and outlines his platform, pointing out that his grandfather arrived in Walla Walla in 1863 on an ox team; also that both he and his father were born in Walla Walla. The current sheriff and

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candidate for re-election, JOHN CUMMINGS, advised that DE WITT, FBI Number [REDACTED] has a record dating back to March 29, 1934. He stated that in 1955 DE WITT was held by the Sheriff's Office at Pasco on a sanity investigation.

On February 18, 1963, Sergeant ROBERT FARNKOFF, Kennewick Police Department, advised that he received a letter addressed to MARY DE WITT, Kennewick, Washington, dated February 9, 1963, which she received from EARL ROSTOCK, Emmett, Idaho. MARY DE WITT stated that she knew neither EARL ROSTOCK nor a TOM DAY, who was referred to in the letter as having a large quantity of merchandise for sale. Sergeant FARNKOFF described MARY DE WITT as Chinese and as working and residing at the Bamboo Inn, a Chinese restaurant operated by her parents at 826 West Columbia, Kennewick, Washington. According to Sergeant FARNKOFF, MARY DE WITT is divorced from ARTHUR DE WITT, who runs a hamburger stand at Kennewick and who is a "nut." Sergeant FARNKOFF stated that it was possible that this letter was some sort of practical joke.

Investigation has developed that about two months ago DE WITT closed Mary's Dog House and opened a shoe shine parlor on West Lewis in Pasco. While in Kennewick, most of DE WITT's business consisted of selling used, trashy magazines and books. Although he is ostensibly in the shoe shine business, he continues to have a "back room" full of cheap magazines, and he reportedly has photographs of nude women for sale. Investigation has developed that DE WITT employed two girls to shine shoes, but that there was little business.

Investigation at Pasco, Washington, since the latter part of November, 1963, reflects that ARTHUR DE WITT plans to leave Pasco and go to Florida because he is subject to ridicule since he sent flowers to the funeral of LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Further investigation reflected that a rock was thrown through his window as a result of his having sent the flowers to OSWALD's funeral.

Information developed at Pasco, Washington, November 27, 1963, that ARTHUR C. DE WITT, Pasco, Washington, had sent flowers to funeral of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Dallas, November 26, 1963. DE WITT, FBI Number [REDACTED], admitted sending a \$6 spray to OSWALD in Dallas on the morning of November 26, 1963. DE WITT stated although it was "an impulsive

act," he would do it again. The reason for doing it was because OSWALD had not been tried and only conflicting reports regarding his guilt had been made. He said if he had known with certainty OSWALD had shot the President, he certainly would not have sent flowers. DE WITT said that he was certain no one else would send any flowers, so he decided he would. He does not know OSWALD, RUBY, nor anyone connected with the President's assassination or killing of OSWALD. DE WITT was last in Dallas when he hitchhiked through with wife and child in 1936.

The floral shop in Kennewick, Washington, which sent flowers for DE WITT advised they telephoned the order to Webb Royal Flowers, 166 Webb Royal Shopping Center, Dallas, around 9 AM, November 26, 1963, and advised they would deliver a spray to OSWALD's residence. No message was sent with the order. DE WITT said he sends "lots of flowers" to people who might not otherwise get any. The floral shop in Kennewick which sent the flowers stated DE WITT frequently does things like this. The Pasco Police Department characterized DE WITT as an eccentric and generally regarded as a "nut" by Pasco people.

On May 14, 1964, [REDACTED] of the Seattle Times, advised that the following advertisement had been called in by KAY HOPPER for ARTHUR DE WITT, a magazine store owner at 1108 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington:

"All persons who believe in LEE OSWALD's innocence in the shooting of President KENNEDY register at 1108 First Avenue."

Investigation at 1108 First Avenue revealed a used magazine store recently opened, and advertising that it buys, sells, and trades magazines. A cursory view reflected a large number of nude-type magazines for sale, and the place seemed to deal in pornographic-type magazines. On the window of the magazine store were several pages of articles clipped from the "National Guardian," which articles questioned that OSWALD actually killed President KENNEDY. There were also signs in

the window which stated, "Where is the Warren Report?" and "What Your Newspaper Dares Not Print."

On June 1, 1964, investigation at 1108 First Avenue reflected that additional printing had been included on the window front of the used magazine store reflecting that ARTHUR C. DE WITT had left Pasco, Washington, because he had sent flowers to the funeral of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, which had resulted in someone throwing a rock through the window of his store, causing a thousand dollars' worth of damage to him. Also on the store front was printing which challenged the FBI, the CIA, and the Secret Service to develop the truth about the assassination, alleging that these Federal agencies had backed the wrong organization in accepting the Dallas Police Department version that OSWALD had killed President KENNEDY. DE WITT also had information on the store front reflecting that he was very familiar with bolt action guns and that the angle of the shots that hit Governor CONNELLY and President KENNEDY indicated that they could not have been fired by a bolt-action gun from the sixth floor of the bookstore. DE WITT also had statements on the magazine store stating that the Warren Report was not going to be issued in our lifetime. He had a letter from the "Seattle Times" dated in May of 1964, which stated that it was not the policy of the "Seattle Times" to print the ad requested for DE WITT, and DE WITT's comment was that this indicated that the Seattle press was biased and that only the "National Guardian" printed the truth.