



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

June 30, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,  
November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas

The following investigation was conducted at Austin, Texas, in an attempt to verify that ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS made a statement to the Newman Club at The University of Texas, Austin, Texas, on February 19, 1957, to the effect that if KENNEDY was elected president he would be murdered. Also, that REYNOLDS had perceived knowledge of the assassination and identity of the assassin, that in 1957 he had discussed these perceptions with FRED PEPPER; with a paraplegic law student; and STANLEY ADAMS, students at The University of Texas and with ARTHUR MERCHANT, then operating an ice cream parlor on Guadalupe Street in Austin, Texas.

The official Student Directory of The University of Texas for the school year of 1956-1957 reflected the following:

FRED ROBERT PEPPER, resident 2200 San Jacinto, graduate school student, Arts and Sciences, permanent residence Route 1, Wellington, Texas

STANLEY EDWARD ADAMS, resident 2303 Nueces, student in law school, permanent residence 110 Churchill Boulevard, San Angelo, Texas

Neither of these individuals appeared in the 1963-1964 Student Directory.

The Austin City Directory for 1957 reflected that ARTHUR H. MERCHANT, a resident of 2104 San Antonio Street, operated Merchant's Texas Sweet Shop.

The Austin City Directory for 1963 reflected that ARTHUR H. MERCHANT, resident of 2104 San Antonio Street,

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ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS

was employed as manager of the University News Service.

On June 29, 1964, JOHN WALTON, Ex-Students Association, The University of Texas, advised the only address available for FREDERICK ROBERT PEPPER was Route 1, Wellington, Texas.

He stated further that the address of STANLEY EDWARD ADAMS was 2510 Live Oak Street, San Angelo, Texas.

On June 27, 1964, A. NATHAN DARBY, Lieutenant, Identification Division, Austin Police Department, Austin, Texas, advised the following:

Offense Report No. 200487 reflected that ROBERT S. REYNOLDS, a resident of the Texan Hotel, Room 310, Austin, Texas, was arrested at 9:20 p.m. on May 27, 1955, on a charge of disturbing the peace at the Texan Hotel on complaint of the hotel manager. The disposition of this arrest was shown as "Transferred to County."

He advised that REYNOLDS was described as a white male, thirty-six years of age, having been born December 18, 1918, at Priston, New Jersey, and his occupation was shown as sales promotion.

As a result of this arrest, REYNOLDS' fingerprints were submitted to the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which, under date of June 3, 1955, furnished an identification record for ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS reflecting his FBI Number to be 246 7484.

REYNOLDS was again arrested by the Austin Police Department at 8:20 a.m. on April 4, 1956, on charges of trespassing and vagrancy on complaint of NEAL JONES, 401 East 12th Street in Austin, Texas.

A narrative of this report read, "Subject alleged to have stayed overnight in the building at 103 East 14th without the owner's permission. Further alleged to have used force to enter said building at 4:00 o'clock a.m."

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On this arrest, his address was shown as Y.M.C.A., Austin, Texas, and the other identifying data was the same as shown on the previous arrest except for his place of birth which was shown as Princeton, New Jersey.

REYNOLDS was investigated by his department under Case No. 308386 on complaint of Mr. E. R. TURMAN of Refugio, Texas, who, on September 28, 1957, complained that RAYMOND REYNOLDS, (later identified as ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS) was staying in an apartment in the rear of 608 W. 22nd Street which property was owned by TURMAN and was in the process of being sold. Mr. TURMAN stated that neighbors around this address had complained to him about this young man occupying an apartment on the premises. TURMAN said that REYNOLDS was there when he arrived in Austin to check on the property and that REYNOLDS acted so nice and clever that he allowed him to stay there and watch the property free of rent. Neighbors at this address told TURMAN that REYNOLDS stayed in the house during all the day and came out at night with a flashlight prowling around in the neighborhood.

On September 30, 1957, REYNOLDS was interviewed by officers of the police department.

In concluding DARBY made available a photograph of ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS taken by his department on May 27, 1955, bearing the identification number BE 10896.

On June 27, 1964, ARTHUR HERMAN MERCHANT, a resident of 2104 San Antonio Street, Austin, Texas, who is employed as manager of the University News Stand, 2314 Guadalupe Street Austin, Texas, advised the following:

He operated the Texas Sweet Shop at 2266 Guadalupe Street, Austin, from 1950 until May of 1958.

He recognized the photograph of ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS taken by the police department, Austin, May 27, 1955, and bearing identification number BE 10896, as an individual who was a customer at the Sweet Shop for several months in 1957, including the summer months of that year. During that time, REYNOLDS had only one employment and this was a few weeks with the Automobile Association of America. During this employment, REYNOLDS paid a \$70.00 debt incurred by

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having his meals at the Sweet Shop.

He held frequent and lengthy conversations with REYNOLDS. REYNOLDS appeared intelligent and well read. REYNOLDS said he had been a radio commentator and news reporter in Alaska. He, MERCHANT, being familiar with Alaska, questioned REYNOLDS about various cities in Alaska and decided that REYNOLDS was not at all familiar with Alaska and apparently had never been to Alaska. REYNOLDS also said he had been in the Air Corps and again by questioning REYNOLDS, MERCHANT satisfied himself that this was false information. For these reasons he held REYNOLDS' veracity in question.

REYNOLDS mentioned living at the Y.M.C.A.; however, he heard that REYNOLDS was actually living under the steps of a vacant house.

His only contacts with REYNOLDS were at the Sweet Shop.

He was contacted by a detective of the Austin Police Department concerning REYNOLDS. The detective said that REYNOLDS had been observed on the streets at all hours of the night, causing the officers' concern about REYNOLDS' activities.

A few days later, REYNOLDS borrowed money from him, saying that he had a job prospect in Dallas, that he was going to Dallas and would return the money by mail. He has neither seen nor heard from REYNOLDS since that time.

As best he could recall, this was in the fall of 1957.

He wished to state positively that in all their conversations politics was never discussed and REYNOLDS never even mentioned the name of JOHN F. KENNEDY in any regard.

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Also REYNOLDS never mentioned the name of either LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY to him.

In conclusion, MERCHANT said he formed no opinion as to REYNOLDS' mental stability but thought anyone who would go hungry rather than work as REYNOLDS did was a bit strange.

On June 27, 1964, Reverend DAVID O'BRIEN, Director, Newman Club, Catholic Student Center, The University of Texas, 207 West 21st Street, Austin, Texas, advised the following:

No list of names of individuals attending meetings of the Newman Club is maintained.

No permanent official records are maintained of the meeting.

The regular meeting day is Sunday.

From his personal diary he determined that he, Reverend O'BRIEN, attended a discussion on Tuesday, February 19, 1957, at the club. This was the extent of the information contained in his diary. He could not recall the parties present at this discussion. This would have been a religious instruction or inquiry group.

He recognized a photograph of ROBERT STEPHEN REYNOLDS taken by the police department, Austin, Texas, on May 27, 1955, and bearing that department's number BE 18096 as ROBERT REYNOLDS who in late 1956 or early 1957 appeared in his office and offered to translate for three Hungarian refugee students attending The University of Texas.

He could not recall if REYNOLDS was present at the discussion mentioned above as having been held on February 19, 1957.

REYNOLDS was an operator, that is, one who would like to have been important and one who liked to be in the

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limelight. In view of this and further in view of the fact that REYNOLDS was much older than the University of Texas students who frequented the club, he did not appreciate REYNOLDS coming to the club and did not encourage REYNOLDS to do so. Although he felt like asking REYNOLDS not to frequent the club, he did not do so inasmuch as the club is for the public's use.

After a few months, REYNOLDS disappeared from the scene.

He could not recall REYNOLDS ever mentioning the names of JOHN F. KENNEDY, LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY.

He could not recall REYNOLDS making any predictions concerning any person or event or of making any claim to being a clairvoyant.

In 1956 and 1957, Father CHARLES RONAN, SJ, at the time a member of the faculty at Loyola (Phonetic) University in Chicago, was working on his doctorate at The University of Texas and resided at the Newman Club. He knew of no connection Father RONAN had with Our Lady of Angels School in Chicago. Father RONAN was the only visiting priest from Chicago during those years.

In conclusion, Reverend O'BRIEN said that Father RONAN is now assigned to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, however, is presently on a student trip in Mexico.

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