



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 23, 1964

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

[REDACTED] an inmate of the [REDACTED] Prison, Pa., has been incarcerated in this prison since [REDACTED] 1963. He was arrested, along with four other individuals, by the [REDACTED] Police Department, Pa., for burglary of a men's clothing store in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1964. They were all sentenced on [REDACTED] 1964, in Northampton County Court, Easton, Pa. [REDACTED] was sentenced to serve a term in prison of four to eight years. All of the other individuals were sentenced to serve terms of two and one-half to five years.

[REDACTED] formerly resided at [REDACTED] Pa. He is 25 years of age, finished 11 years of schooling, and previously served in the U. S. Army under the six-months active duty program. He is presently in the inactive U. S. Army Reserve.

Sufficient contact has not been had with [REDACTED] to determine his reliability.

210
ENCLOSURE

Date November 19, 1964

[redacted] was interviewed at the [redacted] Prison. He was advised by SA C. HEBER SMITH that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he did furnish could be used against him in court, and that he had the right to consult an attorney, or anyone else prior to making a statement.

[redacted] furnished the following information:

He advised that there is an organized gang comprised of individuals from Massachusetts to Ohio and south to Delaware and Maryland. Leaders of this gang usually meet on Mondays each week in New York City at the southeast corner of Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. They meet on either second or third floor over a White Tower or White Palace Luncheonette. Entrance is from the Seventh Avenue side at the rear of the restaurant. Entrance to meeting place is the same as to Daddy Grace Tabernacle on Seventh Avenue.

One of the members of this gang was BILLY DE LOATCH who resided at 5909 Carpenter Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and who formerly operated a tailor shop at 501 Newton Avenue, Camden, N. J., as a front for stolen merchandise. He had territorial jurisdiction in Camden, N. J., and allegedly in the eastern part of Pennsylvania.

DE LOATCH was shot at his tailor shop October 21, 1964, in an alleged holdup attempt and died October 26, 1964. DABNEY believed DE LOATCH may have been killed because of factionalism in gang. [redacted] was very close to DE LOATCH for one year.

On about the second Monday of September 1963 [redacted] drove DE LOATCH to New York for a meeting of this gang. They returned to Camden the same afternoon. [redacted] did not attend the meeting but observed approximately 20 well-dressed men leave the meeting. About 12 of them were white men and the remainder were Negroes. Meetings were held usually from about 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

On 11/12/64 at Easton, Pa. File # Philadelphia 157-916
by SA's C. HEBER SMITH & THOMAS F. HANNIGAN/JBK Date dictated 11/18/64


- 2 -

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

PH 157-916

Informant was unable to fix date but thought it was about September 1, 1963, that he was in DE LOATCH's tailor shop at about noon when DE LOATCH mentioned that President KENNEDY was going to be killed.

DE LOATCH said that this gang had learned from a Washington, D. C., source in about the middle of August 1963 that President KENNEDY held a conference among top aides and talked of legislation which would require all outstanding currency to be submitted to the Federal Government in exchange for new currency of a different color. The gang members held large sums of currency and would be unable to exchange it for new currency because of possible Internal Revenue Service investigation. For this reason, the gang decided to have KENNEDY killed. Gang leaders felt that President KENNEDY was responsible for this proposal, and that if he were eliminated the legislation would not be enacted. DE LOATCH said KENNEDY was okay as long as he was active in civil rights, Medicare, the war effort in Southeast Asia, and other matters, but that this currency legislation was going too far, and that a lot of people would be hurt if this took place.

 said there were two other individuals present in the tailor shop when DE LOATCH made these statements. One was a Negro male, first name BENNIE, last name unknown, of Camden, N. J., who was a burglar and runner for DE LOATCH and who hung around the tailor shop a lot. BENNIE described as 22 or 23 years of age, looks younger; 6' or 6'1"; 200 pounds; dark complexion; clean-cut; previously served in prison in New Jersey and was released in 1963; believed to be on New Jersey State Parole at present; single; no scars or marks; known to Detective JOHN OPFER of Camden County Detectives Office.

Second individual's name unknown. He was employed as delivery boy for luncheonette located at Seventh and Mount Vernon Streets, Camden, N. J. He was described as Negro male, 27 or 28 years of age, 5'8", medium build, dark complexion, usually poorly dressed, also believed known to Detective OPFER.

PH 157-916

[redacted] heard DE LOATCH mention assassination two or three times subsequently, but could not recall details of conversation and could not furnish specific information as to when or where remarks made or other individuals present.

Before KENNEDY was shot, probably in late October 1963, DELOATCH stopped one night at [redacted] Philadelphia, at the residence of [redacted] In their apartment at that time were [redacted] and [redacted] friends of [redacted] is Negro, about age 32, and [redacted] is Negro age about 25. [redacted] resides [redacted] floor and [redacted] on [redacted] floor.

When DE LOATCH stopped at DABNEY's apartment, television was on and President KENNEDY came on at a news conference on video tape. DE LOATCH made some remark then that President KENNEDY was to be killed soon and explained the reason why. This was only a cursory remark. He said that a gang was going to have KENNEDY killed, but he did not say that he would have a part in it.

[redacted] thought that this gang was busy in the plans of the assassination for about six weeks prior to it. He thought this because there were no major crimes pulled during this period by this gang.

He also recalled that DE LOATCH told him prior to the assassination that President KENNEDY had been on a trip to Virginia or Tennessee and that an unsuccessful attempt had been made there to assassinate KENNEDY. Two Negro men were hired to shoot KENNEDY. One tried to shoot the President, but his gun jammed. No further details were given.

[redacted] was arrested November 15, 1963, in [redacted] Pa., and was incarcerated under \$1,000 bail. His wife and friends tried to get DE LOATCH to get him out on bail; but DE LOATCH was out of town. DE LOATCH did get him out on bail on November 29, 1963.

DE LOATCH told him a few days later that this gang had perpetrated the assassination and that he had been away from Philadelphia beginning November 15, 1963, in this connection.

PH 157-916

DE LOATCH told him he had been to New York City and then to Columbus, Ohio. There were gang members from several states meeting in Columbus, Ohio, concerning this matter.

DE LOATCH also told him that he had wanted to have KENNEDY killed in Philadelphia at the approaching Army-Navy football game in 1963. The gang vetoed this plan as they had a large Philadelphia operation which could possibly be jeopardized if KENNEDY was killed in Philadelphia area. They had no operation in Dallas to jeopardize.

DE LOATCH told [redacted] that the gang had hired three men to shoot KENNEDY in DALLAS, and that these three men had been stationed along the route of the Presidential drive. The three men in Dallas were all white men, since Negroes are in less numbers there and might be conspicuous. OSWALD was one of the three.

[redacted] said KENNEDY was scheduled to go to California later and if they had been unsuccessful in Dallas, they would have tried again to assassinate KENNEDY in California.

There were two gang members in Dallas to get the assassins out on bail if they were arrested with a gun before the assassination. They would get them out on bail before they talked and implicated anyone.

[redacted] thought that the gang hired OSWALD as one of the three white men because it would be unlikely to connect OSWALD with this gang, and thus the gang would not be suspected.

He had no information as to identities of the other two men.

After the shooting of President KENNEDY, RUTH RUCKER told [redacted] he should not have anything to do with DE LOATCH. She pointed out DE LOATCH would get [redacted] in trouble and told [redacted] he was very bad since he had been connected in some way with the shooting of President KENNEDY.

[redacted] said DE LOATCH's wife, BESSIE, would probably know about this since he confided in her.

PH 157-916

Agents told [redacted] they doubted his information because of voluminous investigations by various agencies and the Warren Commission, which developed OSWALD acted alone and purchased the rifle through a mail order house. It was pointed out to DABNEY that when he initially stated the gang had employed three white men to assassinate the President in Dallas, no mention was made of OSWALD. It was only later when Agents discussed the OSWALD investigation that [redacted] then stated OSWALD was one of three men hired by the gang for the Dallas assassination.

[redacted] explained he assumed Agents knew OSWALD was one of three men.

[redacted] mentioned DE LOATCH had told about seven people outside the gang about the assassination plans, and it was extremely unlikely DE LOATCH would have discussed such a plan with anyone except gang leaders. [redacted] explained DE LOATCH was very cocky and brazen in all of his illegal activities and was very loose in his talk. He said that all the above information was definitely true, and he believed this gang was behind this assassination and that nothing would change his mind.

Date November 20, 1964

[redacted] inmate, [redacted] Philadelphia, Pa., residence address, [redacted] on November 17, 1964, concerning his knowledge of BILLY DE LOATCH, also known as BILLY SPIT (FBI #4390133) and any connection DE LOATCH is alleged to have had with the assassination of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, November 22, 1963, at Dallas, Texas. [redacted] related the following:

✓ He first met DE LOATCH through a co-defendant, CLYDE CHARLES WASHINGTON, three years ago. WASHINGTON is DE LOATCH's closest friend. For the past year, 1963-64, [redacted] was also very close to DE LOATCH, who maintained three residences: two in Camden, N. J., in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Ormand Street, and one in Philadelphia at 5909 Carpenter Street, where DE LOATCH lived with his wife, BESSIE. At this time DE LOATCH also operated a tailor shop at 501 Newton Street, Camden, N. J. DE LOATCH moved to the Carpenter Street address, known to [redacted] at the end of 1963.

During the year 1963-64, [redacted] saw DE LOATCH practically daily and worked for DE LOATCH committing burglaries and/or delivering stolen merchandise, principally men's suits, by truck from Philadelphia to New Jersey or visa versa. [redacted] said he regarded DE LOATCH as a "big man with syndicate connections" who was always in possession of a large "bank roll" and in charge of a territory (which [redacted] could not define) wherein DE LOATCH's men worked exclusively in "hi-jacking" and burglaries with police protection. When asked what he meant by "syndicate," [redacted] said, "a group of people working together to accomplish the same thing, the almighty dollar." When asked what he meant by police protection, he related an incident, date not recalled, when he was stopped by the Philadelphia Police while driving a load of stolen suits. He just mentioned he worked for BILLY and the officer "waved him through." [redacted] usually contacted DE LOATCH at his tailor shop, occasionally at DE LOATCH's residence, 5909 Carpenter, through his wife.

On 11/17/64 at Easton, Pa. File # Philadelphia 157-916
 by SA's JOSEPH A. VERICA, J. ROBERT FEARCE & C. HEBER SMITH/JBK Date dictated 11/18/64

PH 157-916

[redacted] was assisted or helped by DE LOATCH on two occasions following [redacted] arrests, November 14, 1963, and March 1964.

[redacted] was arrested November 14, 1963, in [redacted] Pa., for assault on an officer who stopped him for a traffic violation. He was confined to [redacted] Prison from November 14, 1963, to November 29, 1963. Bail was posted by DE LOATCH.

When arrested on November 14, 1963, [redacted] called his wife, [redacted] who telephonically contacted DE LOATCH's tailor shop, but was told by "Reds" who works at this tailor shop, that DE LOATCH was out of town. She then contacted CLYDE WASHINGTON, who personally went to the tailor shop, Camden, N. J., and sent back the same message, that DE LOATCH was out of town. [redacted] thought this was unusual as DE LOATCH's trips "are well planned." What WASHINGTON was told and by whom is not known to [redacted] WASHINGTON sent [redacted] postal cards to the jail saying he could not reach DE LOATCH. DE LOATCH contacted [redacted] at her apartment, November 28-29, 1963, and gave her \$200 to make bond for [redacted]. This was done through a neighborhood bondsman, CHINK MORGANSTINE, 5501 Pine Street (GR 6-1148), on November 29, 1964. Upon release, [redacted] went to DE LOATCH's tailor shop about 6 p.m. and talked to DE LOATCH. Present were "Big Butch," two Italian boys, and eight or nine people in the back room with DE LOATCH. [redacted] only knew "Big Butch." DE LOATCH told [redacted] he was sorry he was not around to get [redacted] out of jail earlier as DE LOATCH had gone to New York and to Columbus, Ohio. DE LOATCH did not tell [redacted] why he made these trips to New York or Columbus, Ohio, nor did he furnish any information as to the time, date, or purpose of the trip. [redacted] assumed from DE LOATCH's alleged absence from Philadelphia November 14-29, 1963, and the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY on November 22, 1963, (and he admits "I assumed") DE LOATCH was responsible "for setting up this killing." [redacted] said further he assumed if the assassin failed, DE LOATCH was in Columbus, Ohio, "in case anything went wrong" because "They didn't want it to happen in Philadelphia or New York." [redacted] did not know who "they" were.

PH 157-916

[redacted] assumption that DE LOATCH was in any way connected with the President's assassination stems from the following:

At this point [redacted] stuttered and made these statements:

"All I know was what I heard BILLY (DE LOATCH) say."

"I believe he was behind it" (the killing).

[redacted] believes it." [redacted] lives at [redacted] residence).

"My wife [redacted] believes it."

"I know he (DE LOATCH) had people behind him to back him up."

"If he said he done did something, he did it."

"I never knew BILLY to brag about anything too much."

"Around" Labor Day, 1963, [redacted] was in DE LOATCH's tailor shop. "BILLY was talking to a sandwich delivery boy from a store at 7th Street, where Newton Street meets Mt. Vernon Street." "He worked for BILLY before." Also present was BENNY (last name unknown), age 22, 180 pounds, light brown medium complexion, who was also employed by BILLY. BILLY was talking to the sandwich boy and [redacted] overheard BILLY tell him that President KENNEDY made a speech or held a private conference and the President announced that the U. S. Currency was going to be recalled and a new issue made; "the color of the bills would also be changed." BILLY then said, in [redacted] words, "You know what the syndicate is going to do with him (President). They are going to do away with him."

[redacted] said from this he assumed President KENNEDY would be killed. [redacted] said these were not BILLY's words as "BILLY talked hip talk." [redacted] could not relate the "hip" wording used by BILLY, but got his impression "from BILLY's talk."

Further, "BILLY's got a man stationed in Washington who sent this information (changing of the currency) to New York by wire."

PH 157-916

"A lot of it (BILLY's conversation) I didn't catch (because I was busy playing poker), but this man is in all the conferences in Washington, D. C."

When [redacted] came home that night he said he told his wife, [redacted] "what BILLY had said about getting the President." [redacted] said that "BILLY was just talking."

Again in October 1963, day and date not recalled, [redacted] went to see BILLY in Camden at the tailor shop. He was accompanied by his wife, and RUTH RUCKER. He had no particular reason for seeing BILLY. The girls did not come into the tailor shop but went across the street to a bar for some drinks. At this time "BILLY had come back from a meeting in New York. BILLY was talking to one of his 'big people' in the back" (rear of the shop). At this point [redacted] corrected the time of his visit as "the last of September or the first of October 1963. There were a lot of people in there. I didn't know anyone. BILLY was talking to an Italian or Jewish fellow. This man owned a 1963 blue Polaris Dodge with Pennsylvania tags." While they talked, "another man entered and gave BILLY \$1,000 and left. Another man brought BILLY money, also." [redacted] did not know how he knew it was \$1,000.

"I didn't hear too good, but I know BILLY was talking about the President and telling his guy what they had planned-up. Exactly what he (BILLY) said I don't know. He was in the back of the shop and I wasn't nosing about." [redacted] at this point said he believed BILLY was talking about the President because "all the hi-jackings were called off in October 1963," and this (the President) "was the only thing on BILLY's mind." The connection of the "Jewish man or Italian man" with BILLY is not known to [redacted]. When pressed if he heard BILLY mention the word President or the President's name or any word or reference to the President, [redacted] said, "I don't know if he did, but I think I heard him mention President, I'm not sure, I wasn't listening." [redacted] said he believes that "BILLY kept this on his mind all the time." By "this" he meant the "President."

PH 157-916

BILLY on this day gave [redacted] \$50.00 for doing an errand for him.

Again during the latter part of October 1963, in the evening, BILLY visited [redacted]'s home, [redacted] apartment, [redacted] and [redacted] from the [redacted] from the [redacted] were there. [redacted] was in the bathroom shaving with the water running. The 7 o'clock television news was on. The program made some reference to the President. "BILLY was talking to the girls; I could hear BILLY mention something - "They are going to get rid of him or something." [redacted] again assumed BILLY was talking about the President. When [redacted] came out of the bathroom, BILLY made no mention to him of the television program or the President. Instead, BILLY wanted [redacted] to drive a truckload of stolen suits coming from Delaware to Philadelphia. [redacted] was to deliver them to New Jersey if someone brought the truck and parked it near [redacted] house. [redacted] agreed and BILLY left. [redacted] said to [redacted] after BILLY left that [redacted] should stay away from BILLY. "He is wrapped up pretty deep." [redacted] made no further explanation. It was pointed out that it was contradictory to have a load stolen in October when BILLY said earlier there would be no thefts the month of October. [redacted] replied it "was not a syndicated theft" but an individual action."

[redacted] at this point stated he also recalled last October having a conversation with BILLY at the tailor shop when only his employee "Reds" was in the shop. "REDS may not have heard this, but BILLY told me 'they' had two colored guys who made an attempt to shoot the President when the President was in Virginia, Tennessee, or Kentucky. The only thing that saved him (the President) was the gun jammed." When asked to quote directly what BILLY had said to him or as nearly as possible the words used by BILLY during this conversation, [redacted] said, "I only know what BILLY told me. BILLY uses hip talk. He said 'two guys' stationed down there and the only thing that saved him (President [redacted] assumed) the gun jammed." Further, "the way BILLY talked, I thought BUTCH was one of the two."

PH 157-916

[redacted] explained the reason he believed that BUTCH was one of the two individuals allegedly "stationed" in Virginia or Tennessee to assassinate the President was because BUTCH was out of town at this particular period of time, plus BUTCH's reputation for enforcing in this "syndicate." By way of explanation to identify BUTCH, [redacted] said that BILLY had informed him during the first part of 1964 that "BUTCH was arrested by the Feds at Broad and Venango Streets, Philadelphia." BILLY allegedly said that BUTCH had been shot in the leg in order to bring him in. [redacted] related he had learned that "BUTCH" was "popped" (hip talk for arrested) at Philadelphia in January 1964 and was believed to be still in jail.

[redacted] at this point said that he assumed or heard BILLY say that BILLY "had two plans mapped out to kill the President" which BILLY presented to the syndicate, but he was turned down. "The syndicate did not want to bring heat up here (Philadelphia). BILLY was said to be mad because they (not further identified) would not let him pull the job (assassinate the President) the way he wanted it pulled. BILLY allegedly had "it mapped out at the ballgame when the President came to Philadelphia." (Army-Navy football game, Municipal Stadium, Philadelphia, Pa., Thanksgiving season, annually) [redacted] however, said he had never seen any map or plan or writing where BILLY proposed a plan. Concerning this, he said he knew "only what BILLY told me."

In regard to the individuals in Dallas, Texas, who allegedly were responsible for the assassination of President KENNEDY, [redacted] said that he had been informed by BILLY DE LOATCH that "there were three guys down there." When asked to explain where "there" was, [redacted] replied, "Texas, I guess, that's where he (President KENNEDY) got killed." BILLY DE LOATCH said that if one of the three men missed, then one of the two other men would "get him." [redacted] assumed from this conversation that DE LOATCH was making reference to the actual assassination of President KENNEDY in Dallas, Texas.

When questioned specifically, [redacted] said, "BILLY never said he was hired to kill the President, nor that he had hired anyone else to kill the President" or that BILLY had any knowledge that the President was going to be killed.

PH 157-916

[redacted] In regard to DE LOATCH's connection with the syndicate, [redacted] said DE LOATCH "carried himself like he was part of the syndicate."

He said it didn't take long to put two and two together and explained that BILLY DE LOATCH was out of town (at the time President KENNEDY was assassinated), and the President was dead. [redacted] related that when DE LOATCH was talking about the President's recalling United States currency, he had said, "You know what they are going to do to him - break his back; teach him a lesson." BILLY was said to have used this expression frequently.

[redacted] related it was for these above reasons and, principally, the fact that he believed BILLY DE LOATCH was out of town (November 14 - 29, 1963) when the President was killed that led [redacted] to assume that BILLY DE LOATCH had the President killed. [redacted] also commented that he had not heard the name of any individual who was hired or "stationed" in Dallas by the syndicate to assassinate the President.

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

The Cincinnati Office of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation advised no information was developed regarding a
gang meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in November 1963.